



Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Details Terms for Resumption of Talks

TA0203141294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Text] Here is a report just in: Yasir 'Arafat has sent a message to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin detailing the PLO terms for peace talks resumption. This was reported by Palestinian sources in Tunis. They said Sa'ib 'Urayqat traveled from Jerusalem to Tunis to deliver the message. The PLO terms are as follow:

- Israel will disarm the settlers and permit international presence in the territories.
- Israel will stop expropriating Arab lands in the territories and building new settlements.
- Israel will restructure several settlements situated close to Palestinian population centers, such as Netzarim in the Gaza Strip, Qiryat Arba', and two settlements in the Jericho area. 'Arafat suggests that the Netzarim residents should be relocated to another settlement in southern Strip, and that Palestinians should be allowed to purchase some of the evacuated lands.

Further on 'Arafat Proposal

NC0203194894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1850 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Text] Tunis, 2 Mar (MENA)—A highly-placed Palestinian source has stated that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has sent a number of proposals to the Israeli Government in an attempt to end the crisis resulting from the massacre at the Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron in the occupied West Bank and return the Palestinian and Israeli delegations to the negotiating table. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, head of the Palestinian delegation to the Washington peace talks, will hand these proposals to the Israelis today. This source disclosed that the proposals, on which agreement was reached after the Palestinian leaders met on Sunday and Monday, include:

First, disarming the Israeli settlers and allowing an international presence [tawajud dawli] in the self-rule areas.

In a message to Israeli Prime Minister Rabin, which 'Urayqat will deliver, 'Arafat pointed out that these proposals are in line with the Declaration of Principles agreement. He said that the Cairo agreement provides that the Israeli army will protect the settlements while the Palestinian police will be responsible for security in the self-rule areas. The source said that 'Arafat's proposals did not specify the type of international presence, UN forces or observers, but was content with the phrase "international presence."

The Palestinian source said that the second proposal requests restructuring certain settlements that are close

to Palestinian population centers or those where extremist Jews live, such as the Netzarim settlement near Gaza, which 'Arafat proposed merging with the Gush Qatif settlement in south Gaza and Qiryat Arba' in Hebron. 'Arafat also proposed that Palestinians purchase these settlements. The Palestinian source noted that the third proposal requests Israel stop expropriating Arab land and building new settlements. He pointed out that 'Arafat has become convinced that the current crisis between Israel and the PLO can only be solved through direct dialogue between them, not by bringing other parties into the crisis. He said that intensive diplomatic efforts are under way in Cairo, Washington, and other capitals to convince both parties to reach a compromise and return to the negotiating table.

'Arafat Urges EU To Push for Palestinian Protection

NC0203161594 Paris AFP in English 1504 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Text] Tunis, March 2 (AFP)—PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat, in "agony" over the Hebron massacre, urged touring Greek Foreign Minister Karolos Papoulias to push for international protection for Palestinians, Greek officials said Wednesday [2 March].

Papoulias, current chairman of European Union's Ministerial Council, told reporters here the Council may be asked to provide European troops to an international protection force for the Israeli-occupied territories.

Papoulias, a long-time friend of 'Arafat, is to brief the Council next Monday to report the results of his tour of Tunisia, Jordan, Israel, Egypt and Syria.

The minister said he contacted several European colleagues after his talks here late Tuesday with the PLO chief to tell them of 'Arafat's demands.

An aide to Papoulias added that 'Arafat was "in agony" over the massacre and its consequences for negotiations aimed at launching the autonomy accord, which is almost three months behind schedule.

He "was not very talkative, kept hammering his preconditions" for restarting the autonomy talks, particularly "security guarantees and the disarming of the settlers."

Papoulias told 'Arafat that the European Union was "making every effort to ensure that the dialogue goes on."

"The tragic events of Hebron have created a new situation. It will have to be overcome through new measures," Papoulias said.

The Greek foreign minister also discussed the Hebron massacre and the autonomy talks with Tunisian President Ben Ali and Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahya.

Papoulias was to visit Tel Aviv later Wednesday to meet with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, who has held several negotiating sessions with 'Arafat.

The PLO has spurned a call from U.S. President Bill Clinton to hold snap negotiations to finalise an autonomy deal with Israel, while Jordan, Lebanon and Syria broke off talks with Israel in support.

'Arafat said Tuesday he would insist on UN guarantees to protect the Palestinians before resuming peace talks.

'Arafat's "bottom line" included the dispatch of international peacekeepers, disarming the settlers and dismantling some settlements.

In New York, the UN Security Council was still struggling over a resolution on the massacre while Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali pushed for a UN presence to keep the peace in the territories.

Sha'th Leaves for U.S., To Demand Protection

NC0303112294 Paris AFP in English 1026 GMT
3 Mar 94

[Text] Cairo, March 3 (AFP)—PLO autonomy negotiator Nabil Sha'th left here Thursday [3 March] for London and Washington to demand international protection for Palestinians before self-rule talks with Israel can resume.

Sha'th told reporters before leaving he would talk to British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd about ways to "protect the Palestinian people and disarm Israeli settlers" after the Hebron massacre.

He said he would travel on to Washington to meet US Secretary of State Warren Christopher on Friday and discuss "measures which must be applied to guarantee security for Palestinians before negotiations resume" with Israel.

Sha'th, an advisor to PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat, said he will also ask the US administration to "adopt a serious position on Jewish American groups which collect funds for extremist settlers" to attack Palestinians.

Nabil Qassis, another PLO member involved in peace talks with Israel, will join Sha'th in his discussions with US officials.

A US official speaking on condition of anonymity said on Wednesday that the United States hope the autonomy negotiations will resume after Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin visits Washington from March 14-17.

The negotiations to launch self-rule in the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho have been suspended since a Jewish settler on Friday shot dead 52 Palestinian worshippers at a mosque in the West Bank town of Hebron.

Ghawshah Comments on Fate of Talks After Hebron

NC0303085594 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic
0610 GMT 3 Mar 94

[Telephone interview with Samir Ghawshah, secretary general of the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front and PLO Executive Committee member, in Tunis, by Fawzi al-Jundi, in: Cairo, date not given; from the "Dialogue From Afar" program—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Jundi] Dr. Samir Ghawshah, the Voice of the Arabs welcomes you.

[Ghawshah] Thank you.

[Al-Jundi] The Ibrahim Mosque massacre was not the first to be perpetrated against the Palestinians living under occupation. Following this massacre, numerous question marks hang over the peace process. What is the PLO's assessment of the peace operation after this incident?

[Ghawshah] The crime against our kin in the Ibrahim Mosque in Hebron was doubtless a turning point for the Palestinian people's progress and profoundly affected the peace process, especially as this bloody assault was not the first of its kind by extremist organizations and settlers. Our people have already been subjected to many similar assaults. Armed settlers have attacked our people, stormed houses, assaulted vehicles, and blocked roads while Israeli army and security personnel stood by and watched. Despite denunciations and petitions and discussions about settler issues, Rabin's government continued its policy of allowing settlers to walk around fully armed and attack Palestinians.

Basically, we view this as a major incident affecting the peace operation and halting the talks.

[Al-Jundi] Do you think this massacre will halt the peace process or only postpone it indefinitely?

[Ghawshah] This depends on the conduct of Prime Minister Rabin and his government and the measures that will be adopted following the massacre. They must make a decision disarming all settlers. The Israeli Government has only decided to disarm some settlers. What also happened is that the Palestinians were prevented from laying their martyrs to rest. At the same time, the settlers continued to walk around fully armed, something that was relayed by television screens worldwide. We say: In light of the Rabin government's decisions and judging by how seriously it handles this issue and the peace process, we might decide to suspend the negotiations instead of halting them altogether. We have offered a lot to keep the peace process going. We are still saying that if earnest and effective decisions are made, primarily providing international protection for our people against assault, we might regard what is happening as a suspension of the talks, not an end to the peace process.

[Al-Jundi] Following the Ibrahimi Mosque massacre and the international condemnation of it, observers have spoken about the peace process and the basis for negotiations. Regarding the Israeli settlements inside the Palestinian self-rule area, is there a specific strategy that the Palestinian side will follow in the coming phase?

[Ghawshah] Since the Madrid conference, the PLO and its negotiating delegations have been reiterating that the settlements and the settlers constitute an obstacle to peace. In all the rounds of talks, the Palestinian delegations have been calling for the withdrawal of the settlers and the dismantling of the settlements. They have been calling for ending this phenomenon, which is considered to be a continuation of Israeli aggression and occupation. But because of particular factors and circumstances, the discussion of the final status of the settlements has been postponed. Now, after the massacre and after the world has realized that the main issue is not Israel's security, but the Palestinian people's security, it has become clear that these settlements are a threat and a powder keg. We stress the need to start a serious discussion of the status of these settlements. This is particularly so because Rabin has stressed that there are security settlements and political settlements. We believe some settlements can be dismantled while others can be put together pending their dismantling. This constitutes a guarantee for peace. But if Rabin and his government still insist on their stance, it means they are putting out obstacles. Thus, the peace process will remain threatened by this powder keg represented by the presence of the settlements and armed settlers.

Executive Committee Dissidents Note Peace Talks

Al-Hut, al-Hasan Support Suspension

JN0303111894 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 3 Mar 94
p 29

[By 'Awdah 'Awdah]

[Text] PLO Executive Committee member Shafiq al-Hut and Fatah Central Committee member Hani al-Hasan have joined hands with four PLO Executive Committee members—'Abd-al-Rahim Malluh, 'Abdallah Hurani, Taysir Khalid, and Abu-Isma'il [Mahmud Isma'il]—in calling for a halt to the negotiations, dismantlement of settlements, international protection for Palestinians in the occupied territories, and rehabilitating the terms of reference of the peace process on the basis of the relevant international legitimacy resolutions.

A responsible Palestinian source has said he has received a written approval of this stand by these four PLO Executive Committee members from both al-Hut and al-Hasan.

In a separate development, nine Palestinian popular unions, namely, the Palestinian Workers Union, the Palestinian Teachers Union, the Palestinian Students Union, the Palestinian Women's Union, the Palestinian Writers and Journalists Union, the Palestinian Plastic

Arts Union, the Palestinian Peasants Union, the Palestinian Artists Union, and the Palestinian Physicians and Pharmacists Union, concluded their joint meeting in Tunis on 1 March.

These unions issued a statement, a copy of which was obtained by AL-RA'Y. The unions held Israel responsible for the massacre at holy Ibrahimi Mosque.

The statement urged the Arab nation to shoulder its pan-Arab and historical responsibility toward the Palestinian people to enable them to maintain their steadfastness until the achievement of their inalienable rights to self-determination, repatriation, and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

The statement urged the United States, in its capacity as a cosponsor of the peace conference, and U.S. President Clinton to end their unlimited support of the Israeli Government.

The statement also called on the UN Security Council to take immediate and practical measures to dispatch a protection force to the occupied territories to protect our people from the crimes of Israeli aggressors.

Khalid, Malluh View Negotiating Position

JN0303083794 Damascus SANA in Arabic 2150 GMT
2 Mar 94

[Text] Amman, 2 Mar (SANA)—PLO Executive Committee member Taysir Khalid has warned against the maneuvers the Rabin government is staging by releasing some prisoners whose prison terms are about to end, saying that these maneuvers are designed to drag the PLO back into the negotiating table on Israeli terms.

In a statement distributed here today, Khalid expressed his convictions that the Oslo negotiators no longer have ample room for maneuvering. He added that they must halt the current negotiations and abrogate the Oslo and Cairo agreements. They should not return to the negotiations unless the Rabin government pledges to honor international legitimacy's resolutions on settlements and comply with the terms of reference agreed upon for the negotiating process.

Khalid asserted that it fails to take such measures, then the Palestinian leadership must tender its resignation and call the Palestine National Council into session to elect a new leadership.

For his part, PLO Executive Committee member 'Abd-al-Rahim Malluh has said: We reject Yitzhaq Rabin's perception of international protection for our people in the occupied territories. He indicated that Israel is attempting to absorb the indignation elicited by the holy Ibrahimi Mosque massacre, and to cover up for this heinous crime.

Malluh asserted that the meetings held by the PLO Executive Committee to consider its negotiating position in the aftermath of the Hebron massacre were

illegal. He added that the members attending these meetings were a minority, and that most members did not attend.

Al-Surani: Settlement Option 'Leads Nowhere'

NC0203163694 Cairo AL-ARABI in Arabic 28 Feb 94
p 4

[Report by Salah 'Azazi]

[Text] PLO Executive Committee Member Jamal al-Surani has said that the entire Palestinian people are calling for breaking off the negotiations with Israel. He held the United States responsible for the Zionist massacre in Hebron. There is no point continuing the negotiated settlement until the U.S. position becomes clear, he said.

Al-Surani assailed demands by Clinton and Warren Christopher that the two sides demonstrate self-restraint, as though Palestine was the aggressor against Israel. He said: I pray God to remove the scales from the eyes of those who imagine something good will come of the U.S. position. It is the United States that provides weapons, aid, and all forms of support for Israel.

Al-Surani said the settlement option leads nowhere with the racist usurpers who are embraced by the United States. He called for a prompt meeting by the Arab foreign ministers, or else the Arabs will be colluding against each other. An Arab summit to react to the massacre must be held, he said.

'Urayqat: U.S. 'More Israeli Than the Israelis'

TA0203141594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100
GMT 2 Mar 94

[Text] Sa'ib 'Urayqat has criticized the U.S., charging President Clinton with failing to take a firm stand against Jewish settlements and failure to back PLO demands for international protection. 'Urayqat called the U.S. response to the latest events inadequate. He charged the U.S. State Department with being more Israeli than the Israelis.

'Urayqat on PLO Demands, Future of Negotiations

JN0203185094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1530
GMT 2 Mar 94

[Interview with Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, head of the Palestinian delegation to the Washington talks, by Sa'id Mu'addi, place and date not given; from the "With the Events" program—recorded]

[Text] [Mu'addi] Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, head of the Palestinian side in the Washington negotiations: Good evening. You have conveyed a message from Yasir 'Arafat to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. What does the message contain?

['Urayqat] In fact, the message was conveyed to the Israeli negotiators by telephone last Friday. The message urges the Israeli Government to make four moves. First, to disarm the settlers; second, to dismantle the settlements in Gaza and Hebron; third, to provide international protection; and fourth, to place the settlements issue at the top of the agenda. The Israeli Government replied by adopting certain decisions, which do not rise to the required level and which lack seriousness. The PLO Executive Committee studied the issue and found that the decisions and replies did not contribute to peace efforts.

In light of the incidents that followed the massacre in the occupied Palestinian territories, including the settlers' continued terrorist and provocative activity and the Israeli Army's continued killings of Palestinian citizens, the Israeli Government is once again required to take practical and realistic measures, rather than mere formalities, like the ones it has taken in the past. This is exactly what happened and this is what was conveyed to the Israeli delegations in Washington.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Sa'ib: Where do we stand now regarding the future Israeli-Palestinian negotiations?

['Urayqat] I believe that negotiations are not a goal in and of themselves. They are a means to achieve a goal. We believe that as a result of the terrorist operation in the city of Hebron, the current negotiations face a sharp turning point. Any negotiations that do not deal with settlements will be fruitless. Therefore, Israeli measures should deal with content rather than form.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Sa'ib: Have you ruled out the resumption of Israeli-Palestinian negotiations before the PLO's conditions are met?

['Urayqat] We are not talking about conditions. We state clearly that life will not go on as it used to do before the massacre that took place against our people in Hebron. The U.S. Administration took procedures to move the negotiations from one place to another. This is a procedural matter and cannot influence the situation. What is required now is serious Israeli and U.S. moves.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, thank you very much.

['Urayqat] You are welcome.

'Urayqat on PLO Demands, Israeli Army Actions

JN0203194194 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700
GMT 2 Mar 94

[Telephone interview with Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, head of the Palestinian delegation to the bilateral talks with Israel, by an unidentified reporter, place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] ['Urayqat] Anger prevails in the occupied territory and people here have called on the international community to move swiftly to provide international protection for the defenseless Palestinian people. All

forces and figures in Jericho participated in a demonstration this morning in which they called for international protection and the disarming of the settlers. After the demonstration ended safely, the Army interfered and fired at people killing a 17-year old youth. When the Army started shooting I headed for the market downtown where, in my direction, they fired tear gas and a stun grenade which hit me in my left leg. Praise be to God, there are some bruises, but the injury is not serious.

However, what is more important than all this is that since the terrorist act carried out by the Israeli settler in the holy Ibrahimi Mosque, the Israeli Army has killed 21 Palestinian youths. The Israeli Army is indiscriminately firing at our people. As Israel hides its crimes by standing behind settlers or its terrorist cliques, the regular Israeli Army is killing people and carrying out terrorist acts. This situation strengthens the Palestinian demand for international protection in accordance with the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949.

[Reporter] Brother Sa'ib 'Urayqat: Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin urged the PLO to resume the talks and the Israeli Army is continuing brutal and repressive acts on the ground. How can we reconcile these two extremist Israeli stands?

['Urayqat] It is impossible to reconcile these two stands. Rabin must make a choice between settlements and peace, because the two cannot coexist. This message was conveyed to Rabin last Friday through his delegation in Washington. The PLO told him that he has to move toward four things: First, disarming the settlers; second, providing international protection for the Palestinian people; third, dismantling settlements in Gaza and Hebron; and fourth, placing the settlements issue at the top of the talks agenda. We believe that if the issue of settlements is not at the top of the talks agenda these talks will be useless. Regrettably, Rabin's responses, which came during the cabinet meeting, were weak and meaningless formalities. We want Rabin to make the appropriate decisions. The talks in themselves are not the objective.

On the other hand, the U.S. Administration has tried to limit the danger by adopting procedural measures such as moving the venue of the talks. It ignored the substantial issues; namely, the settlements and international protection for the Palestinian people. This thing places the peace process in a deadlock. We, the Palestinian people, seek a just, genuine, and comprehensive peace on all Palestinian and Arab fronts. We want peace in accordance with the international charters and UN resolutions, particularly Resolutions 242 and 338. Rabin, however, cannot hold talks just for the sake of holding talks.

[Reporter] Brother Sa'ib 'Urayqat, the PLO yesterday suspended negotiations with Israel pending the meet. Is

of its conditions regarding the occupied territories: Providing protection for the Palestinian residents and disarming settlers. In your opinion, can these negotiations resume without these PLO conditions being met?

['Urayqat] As I said, the negotiations cannot be an end in and of themselves. The PLO sent a host of questions to the Israeli Government, headed by the demands that I have mentioned to you. We are waiting for the Israeli Government's response. The negotiations are suspended now. The PLO is holding extensive international and Arab contacts, covering the United States, Russia, Europe, and Arab states. Under these particular circumstances, we hope that we will be able to revive Arab coordination. This is because it was a great decision by other Arab delegations toward entrenching the concept of a comprehensive solution when they suspended the negotiations in Washington in the wake of the massacre. I believe that it is high time that the Arab nation moves toward devising a comprehensive strategy. Likewise, negotiations on other tracks cannot continue for the sake of negotiations only.

[Reporter] Brother Sa'ib 'Urayqat, some experts say that a unified Arab stand demanding that Israel implement UN resolutions practically annuls the possibility of negotiating the Oslo-Jericho [as heard] agreement, which specifies an interim period for the occupied territories before arriving at the final status. Can the Oslo agreement be abandoned?

['Urayqat] In fact, the question is not one of abandoning any agreements. Everyone realizes that the Palestinian track in the peace process has certain peculiarities. We are not talking about an occupied part of the Palestinian territory. We are talking about occupied Palestine as a whole, about all aspects of life in Palestine under the control of the occupation. Therefore, the question does not concern the method of the Israeli implementation and withdrawal, be it phased or not phased; the question has to do with listing a basic item on the Palestinian-Israeli agenda, which is the issue of settlements. In the past, Israel insisted that this issue be postponed until the final status is discussed. During the negotiations, when they were asked how they will provide protection or prevent the settlers from carrying out terrorist operations against the Palestinian people, they said: This is our responsibility. Last Friday, this Israeli responsibility was put to the test and failed. Israel proved that it cannot do that. Therefore, the question of placing settlements on the agenda is essential. In addition, there is the issue of international protection. If Israel withdraws and redeploys its forces, then why should it mind an effective international presence in the Palestinian territory to provide protection for 2 million defenseless Palestinians?

[Reporter] In other words, you are demanding international protection for the Palestinians in the occupied territories, the disarming of the settlers, and the raising

of the issue of settlements at the table of negotiations. Otherwise, you will not go to the negotiations with Israel?

[Urayqat] The decision will be made by the leadership. However, I personally believe that any negotiations that do not place the issue of settlements at the top of the agenda will be useless.

[Reporter] Sa'ib 'Urayqat, are you personally optimistic about the resolution that the UN Security Council may issue?

[Urayqat] In fact, I realize that the U.S. Administration is being hesitant. I realize that from the outset, the U.S. Administration intervened and focused on procedural issues rather than on substance. This is not promising. The U.S. bias toward Israel is very clear. I am not very optimistic about the U.S. position, specifically at the UN Security Council.

[Reporter] Thank you, brother Sa'ib 'Urayqat for this interview with radio Monte Carlo.

[Urayqat] Thank you.

Abu-Sharif Suggests U.S. Purchase Settlements

JN0203202294 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Text] Brother Bassam Abu-Sharif [adviser to PLO Chairman 'Arafat] has called for the removal of the Jewish settlements from the occupied territories and proposed that the United States finance their purchase for the Palestinians. He said: Following the Hebron massacre that claimed the lives of 53 Palestinians, it is necessary to remove the Jewish settlements from the occupied territories to bring about peace between the Palestinians and the Israelis. He stressed that the Hebron massacre provided an opportunity for a two-stage settlement, and said that the lesson that has been learned shows clearly the need for the Israeli Army to withdraw from the occupied territories in implementation of the UN resolutions.

Brother Bassam Abu-Sharif also said that U.S. President Bill Clinton's invitation to the Palestinians and the Israelis to hold serious negotiations in Washington gives an opportunity to President Clinton to prove to the Arab and Islamic world his interest in peace. Concluding, he said that it is Washington's duty to intervene, in its capacity as a partner in the peace process, to completely end the Israeli occupation and to finance the purchase of Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip for the Palestinians.

Islamic Jihad Leader on Targeting 'Every Zionist'

JN0203145894 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 27 Feb 94 pp 1, 2

[By Palestinian affairs editor Jasim Murad]

[Excerpts] Baghdad, Amman, Tunis—AL-JUMHURIYAH has continued its telephone contacts with the office of Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat in Tunis, some Palestinian leaders in Amman, and the intifadah leadership to explore their views about the Palestinian response to the Zionist occupation authorities' massacre at the Ibrahimi Mosque, which resulted in 400 Palestinian casualties. The office of Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat's in Tunis stressed that the Palestinian leadership has decided to recall the Palestinian delegations from negotiations with the Zionist entity in Paris, Washington, Cairo, and Taba. [passage omitted]

In a statement to AL-JUMHURIYAH, As'ad Bayyud al-Tamimi, leader of the Islamic Jihad Movement-Bayt al-Maqdis, said the Zionist crime at the Ibrahimi Mosque was planned and premeditated by the occupation authorities and the troops in charge of guarding the Ibrahimi Mosque. This has been shown by the fact that the Zionist assailants withdrew freely with all their weapons under the cover of the enemy troops surrounding the Ibrahimi Mosque. Al-Tamimi asked: How can an individual—as the occupation authorities are claiming—kill and wound 400 people? He said: We have made a clear and specific decision deeming every Zionist inside the occupied territory a target of our revolutionaries' bullets. He added: We will carry out the Palestinian response inside the occupied territory before the blood of martyrs dries. He urged all other Palestinian factions to stop their denunciations and to embark on real action that restores the dignity of the blood that has been spilled at the Ibrahimi Mosque. [passage omitted]

Hebron Killings Highlight Need To Remove Settlements

PM2802140394 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 27 Feb 94 p 9

[Editorial: "Hebron Massacre Between Words And Action"]

[Text] The international community now has a golden opportunity to consolidate peace in the Middle East. That is, if it knows how to settle the settlements issue swiftly and without dilution.

Anyone who hears international reports on "terrorism" tends to think that it is a tradition which was born Arab, lived Arab, and is going to die Arab. It is most likely that its definition and classification will remain so for some time.

But Barukh Goldstein and before him the perpetrator of Rishon LeZiyyon...through to Menahem Begin, "hero" of the King David Hotel operation—we do not want to make a long list—confirm that terrorism is not necessarily Arab. It is actually a serious phenomenon which needs to be studied, reexamined, and radically tackled with an open mind that does not condemn haphazardly or use double standards.

We have heard so much about Arab "terrorism" that we are now tired of this tone. We realize that it is actually a planned bias designed to conceal right and the demand for it. If we are today promised responsible international action on an ugly massacre like the Hebron massacre, the first signs in the Security Council have not been encouraging, as positions have—as expected—split between those who are content with verbal condemnation and the advocates of practical measures.

Goldstein's crime is a state rather than an emotional individual reaction. It is a state stemming from a political strategy, a conditioned upbringing, and convictions which are dangerous in their extremist and closed-mindedness and see others' obtaining of humanly acceptable minimum rights as a direct threat to them. In view of this situation, it is impossible to divide a solution or camouflage a settlement.

The world has avoided tackling the problem in the occupied territories and senior politicians have deliberately ignored what is happening, using numerous excuses all of which cannot paper over the cracks or convince a child. And today the present Israeli government claims that it is not responsible for the convulsions of radical settlers like Goldstein, whom the Likud government supported for years. But the ruling Labor Party will not be able to wash its hands of its responsibility—both during its rule before and after Likud—for planting scores of "security" or "religious" settlements whose residents believe the Palestinians have no right to coexist with them.

So any compromise attempt for a settlement that does not include a solution to the crux of the question is doomed to failure. It is futile to talk today about containing reactions without moving quickly to remove the settlements. Their continuation is unacceptable politically because it recognizes the legitimacy of occupation and its implementation and rewards occupation by force. It is also unacceptable at the security level because it does not guarantee any peace for unarmed Palestinians or secure credibility for their promised "local authority." It is also unacceptable demographically because it is simply a population time bomb.

Palestinian Demands, Confrontations Viewed

TA0203180194 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic
2 Mar 94 p 11

[Editorial: "The Palestinian Demands—Serious and Crucial"]

[Text] In the aftermath of the barbaric massacre in Hebron, the world has begun to realize and understand the reality of the dangers posed by the settlements' phenomenon on the chances of peace. It has become abundantly clear that settlement activity and peace are incompatible. Moreover, the only way to prevent the recurrence of the Hebron massacre in other Palestinian towns is to begin dismantling the settlements, whose establishment rational Israeli circles admit was a mistake in the first place. Furthermore, the continued existence of the settlements is a more serious mistake whether with regard to the chances of coexistence or the physical presence of the defenseless Palestinian people.

The occupied territories' residents do not view this demand, which the international community should comply with, as another prerequisite for resuming the talks regardless of what it is called. This is because disarming the settlers and dismantling the settlements, whose existence fundamentally contradicts any rational concept of peace, is the only correct beginning. It is also the duty of the international community to provide an effective force to protect the Palestinians and separate them from the armed elements, be they settlers or otherwise, and maintain security and safety.

The United States, which has backed Israel against any move in the Security Council to provide the international force being called for by the Palestinians, should consider the formation of that force a humanitarian demand that can end daily frictions and confrontations between Palestinian residents and the Israeli forces, resulting in death and injury.

What increases pain and suffering is that the Israeli authorities, instead of allowing the residents legitimate freedom to express their grief and anger, they rush their forces to confront the marches and the demonstrating processions. Thus, the number of martyrs and wounded goes up. This in itself is an indication that the calm for which the Israeli authorities are striving cannot be achieved through violence, but by permitting the relatives of the victims, the wounded, and other residents to express their feelings and pain, while removing the chances of confrontation and friction between them and the Israeli forces. Enough victims have fallen so far.

Algeria

'Informed Sources:' FIS Leaders 'Likely' To Be Released

LD0203135094 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Text] In Algeria, the independent newspaper AL-KHABAR said today that it is likely that the leaders of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] will be released within the next few hours.

The newspaper, which was quoting informed sources, said that the amnesty decision was signed some days ago and that it stipulated the release of Abassi Madani, the leader of the FIS, and his deputy Ali Belhadj, in addition to another group of prisoners.

Prosecutor Denies Release Plans

LD0303103694 Paris France-Inter Radio Network in French 1000 GMT 3 Mar 94

[Text] In Algeria, the military prosecutor of Blida says there has never been any question of releasing the chairman and deputy chairman of the Islamic Salvation Front. This contradicts a newspaper report that said the order to release them was signed several days ago.

FIS Condemns Murder of Armed Islamic Group Leader

PM0203144994 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 2 Mar 94 pp 1, 4

[Excerpts] London—The Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] abroad yesterday condemned the Algerian security forces' killing last Saturday of Sid Ahmed Mourad [Djaafar El Afghani], leader of the Armed Islamic Group [GIA]. It stressed that "there can be no solution except complete submission to the will of the people."

It is the Front's first comment on the killing of El Afghani, whose group's statements persistently criticized the approach of dialogue with the authorities and vehemently attacked FIS leaders.

Well-informed sources interpret the FIS condemnation of the GIA leader's killing as "a clear attempt to intercept any accusations which could be leveled at it in the future to the effect that it was behind his betrayal."

This condemnation comes while Shaykh Mahfoud Nahnah, leader of Hamas [Islamic Society Movement], attacked circles "claiming to belong to the Islamic tendency," accusing them of killing the preacher Shaykh Mohamed Bouslimani, a prominent Muslim Brotherhood leader. The authorities accuse the GIA of killing the preacher, who—according to Shaykh Nahnah—refused to issue a fatwa sanctioning acts of murder.

Shaykh Rabeh Kebir did not sign the FIS statement. This is in the knowledge that he has been officially notified by the German authorities of the decision to ban him from

pursuing political activities. The statement, which carried the signature "the Executive Committee abroad," accused the ruling regime in Algeria of "escalating assassination operations against innocent citizens throughout the homeland in the hope of terrorizing and intimidating people further."

The statement added that "the cowardly criminal operation carried out by the repressive authorities against the mujahid, leader, martyr, and Sword of Islam Djaafar and a group of his aides—who were the elite of the mujahidin, heroes, and martyrs—reflects the aims of the regime, which is oppressing the Algerian people by fire and sword. Let the regime and its supporters know that, whenever a leader falls in the arena of honor, a new leader succeeds him and follows the same line."

The statement pointed out that these operations come while the regime continues to talk about looking for negotiated solutions to the crisis afflicting the country, which is caused by the regime."

The statement concluded: "There can be no solution to the political problem in Algeria except complete submission to the Algerian people's will to build a just, Islamic state that will rid people of oppression, repression, and corruption and restore to them their dignity and freedom." [passage omitted]

Observers say that FIS statements condemning Djaafar El Afghani's killing may be designed to cut short the possibility of having an accusing finger pointed at it for revealing the GIA leader's whereabouts. These observers attribute the possibility of such an accusation against it to reports about a dialogue being conducted between it and the authorities and the possibility that the authorities may have asked it to halt violence in return for political concessions demanded by the FIS.

There are reports in Algeria to the effect that members of armed groups are informing against one another and that many members of these groups are falling as a result of this. There is also widespread talk that the Algerian authorities have been able to infiltrate the GIA.

Djaafar El Afghani assumed the group's leadership last year after its leader 'Abd-al-Haq al-'Ayayidah was arrested in Morocco and handed over to Algeria. Al-'Ayayidah has still not been tried.

AL-HAYAH yesterday received a statement from the GIA in which it announced the death of its leader, pledging to continue the "jihad." It also stressed that it "will—God willing—continue its jihad until God proclaims this religion or until we die for the sake of it. The conspiracies of the Jews, Christians, and apostates will not change it (the group). Nor will the sayings of the atheists who have sold their consciences to the East and the West affect its determination." It also said that El Afghani "is not the first leader to fall, nor will he be the last. It is God's will, and this is our road to make this religion prevail—the road of jihad and martyrdom. There is no other road."

With regard to the security situation, FIS sources have said that six Army personnel were killed and 19 wounded the day before yesterday in an ambush set up by "mujahidin" in the mountains around al-Qall city the day before yesterday. The sources said that security forces "took revenge against unarmed citizens, killing al-Sayyid Kebir (60), uncle of Shaykh Rabeh Kebir." [passage omitted]

President, Libyan Envoy Hold 'Positive' Talks
PM0303105594 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 2 Mar 94
pp 1, 4

[Report by Rashid Khashanah: "Relaxation in Relations Between Libya and Algeria"]

[Excerpts] Tunis—Algerian-Libyan relations are experiencing a clear relaxation which could lead to consolidating normalization and turning the page of the stormy dispute that erupted in recent months.

Well-informed Libyan sources yesterday described the visit to Algeria by Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi, envoy of the Libyan leader Colonel Mu'amar al-Qadhafi, and his talks with President Liamine Zeroual as "positive and fruitful, especially with regard to returning matters to normal between the two countries."

Major al-Humaydi, the first senior Libyan official to visit Algeria since the September crisis last year, has always maintained strong ties with Algeria and Tunisia, even at the most critical times.

A severe crisis erupted between Algeria and Libya following a speech delivered by Col. al-Qadhafi at the beginning of last July, in which he announced his willingness to mediate between the regime in Algeria and the Islamic Salvation Front's leaders, whom he described as friends of his. [passage omitted]

Well-informed sources have told AL-HAYAH that the Libyan envoy's talks with senior Algerian officials resulted in important agreements as regards eliminating the causes of the previous escalation, first and most closing the Algerian base in al-Ujaylah to the armed Libyan opposition, suspending media campaigns between the two countries, and reactivating bilateral relations.

The same sources said that Algeria, which took over the leadership of the Arab Maghreb Union from Tunisia last year, is seeking to improve relations with neighboring states and to eliminate the causes of tensions inherited from the former regime. It is also eager to contribute to ripening regional conditions for the convening of the Maghreb summit, which has been postponed indefinitely, in order to consolidate its leadership of the union and reactivate its institutions.

Observers believe that the revival of Algerian-Libyan relations is an important step toward eliminating the causes that have so far prevented the convening of the

Maghreb Presidential Council's sixth session in the Tunisian capital. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Mubarak Reiterates Condemnation of Mosque Massacre

NC0203142294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1300 GMT
2 Mar 94

[Excerpt] Cairo, 2 Mar (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has reiterated Egypt's denunciation of the massacre at the Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron, which he described as the epitome of cruelty and extremism. President Mubarak noted that he is following up the situation and the contacts held with U.S. President Bill Clinton, Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat, and the Israeli president and prime minister.

During an expanded meeting held at the presidential office today, President Mubarak stressed that Egypt urges the international community to adopt a clear-cut decision to back the Palestinian people's right to protection under international law, disarm the settlers, and take an interest in the security requirements of the Palestinian people to ensure the security and safety of Palestinian civilians.

Following the three-hour meeting, Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif stated that its purpose was to discuss domestic affairs on which the president gave instructions at an earlier meeting. [passage omitted]

Mubarak Advisor on Politics, Peace Talks, Other Issues

TA0103184594 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT
(LESHABAT supplement) in Hebrew 18 Feb 94
pp 9, 11, 26

["Exclusive"] interview with Dr. Usamah al-Baz, advisor to President Mubarak, by Smadar Peri in Cairo; date not given]

[Text] Dr. Usamah al-Baz, the Egyptian president's confidential counselor, has no patience for small talk. He hates formalities, cocktail parties, and tuxedos. He is witty, quick, and possesses a keen mind and excellent memory. He is the man who carries out the overt, and mainly covert missions, on behalf of President Mubarak, with whom he has been working since 1975, from the day Mubarak took off his Air Force uniform and became the vice president of Egypt.

Al-Baz, an international relations expert, graduated from Harvard. He returned to the Egyptian Foreign Ministry as its director general with a fluent command of English, ready to work around the clock. Of all things, he relaxes to the sounds of pop music. Behind his back he is called "the mercury," because he does not suffer fools gladly

and quickly dispenses with "nudnicks," nuisances, and anybody who does not stimulate his intellectual curiosity.

He is the architect of the rapprochement between the PLO and Egypt, and is credited with the reconciliation between Presidents al-Asad and Mubarak. He has accumulated dozens, perhaps thousands of "al-Asad hours." And, he is very familiar with Israel. Israeli politics interest him, the names of our decisionmakers and our senior and junior advisers are familiar to him.

[Peri] Mr. al-Baz, President Ezer Weizman and Prime Minister Rabin hesitated about the appropriateness of sending their condolences to Syria. President Hafiz al-Asad over the death of his son Basil. They hesitated, but finally sent them.

[Al-Baz] And I am telling you: there was no room for hesitation. Their decision was right, important, and very wise. The Syrians appreciated the gesture.

[Peri] How do you know?

[Al-Baz] I know, and I will not elaborate. How should I put it? I met some Syrians, and they told me that they greatly appreciated President Weizman's condolences. They were pleasantly surprised. See, they look at you as one human being looks at another. The moment a bereaved father, whose son was killed in an horrendous car accident—which is the tragic case of President Weizman—shares in the grief of another bereaved father—that is, the Syrian president, who also lost his son in similar circumstances—the message is heard.

[Peri] You knew Basil al-Asad and you know President al-Asad very well. How did his son's death affect him?

[Al-Baz] There is no room for political conclusions. This is a human tragedy; a tragedy for the president, for the Syrian people, and for all of us. Basil al-Asad was not just the son of the president, but was a special personality. He was a likable and talented man whose future lay ahead of him. However, as I said before, there is no room to derive political conclusions.

[Peri] If so, let us talk about the political issue. What al-Asad demands from Israel is clear: a withdrawal from the entire Golan Heights. But what exactly will he give in return?

[Al-Baz] I do not like the question so much, and I will tell you why. In my opinion, this is the wrong formula. You are making a mistake by listing your conditions in advance. I believe that if Israel is prepared to give Syria the entire Golan, Syria will make full peace with Israel.

[[Peri] What is full peace?

[Al-Baz] Something that resembles the peace between Israel and Egypt.

[Peri] If so, we are in for a cold peace.

[Al-Baz] I object to the term cold peace. However, if you insist, I am prepared to promise you that the peace between Israel and Syria will be a "cold-plus peace" because it will be based on the Egyptian model, but will not be a separate peace. If you conclude a peace agreement with Syria this year, as we expect, and peace is also attained with Jordan and Lebanon, the entire Arab perception will change. That is why the peace with Syria is "doomed" to be much warmer.

[Peri] To tell you the truth, you are not convincing me. To this day, President al-Asad has even refused to promise that he will open an embassy in Israel.

[Al-Baz] Your tactics are wrong. I would like to remind you that also in the case of the peace with Egypt nobody asked us to promise in advance what the nature of the relations would be. Not even in Camp David. This happened on its own, at the last minute. After all, many of our countrymen objected to President al-Sadat's historic visit to Jerusalem.

Therefore, there was no room to make any promises then about diplomatic relations in exchange for a withdrawal from the Sinai. Had pressure been exerted on us at an early stage, opposition would have been greater and this might have hurt the process. I propose that you think about what I am saying now. I suggest you not to pressure the Syrians.

[Peri] How can you, who are a sort of "liaison" between Israel and Syria, suggest to us to withdraw from the Golan without offering us anything in return?

[Al-Baz] I believe that when all is said and done people in your country realize that Israel will announce its willingness to withdraw from the entire Golan Heights....

[Peri] The entire Golan Heights? And what about the Israeli settlements?

[Al-Baz] They will have to be removed at some stage, as was the case with the withdrawal from the Sinai.

I do not want to speak for the Syrians. You may reach an arrangement with them whereby certain Israelis can remain there as individuals. However, they would have to live under Syrian sovereignty, obey Syrian law and the local police. I am not sure many Israelis will accede to it.

If you really want to know the meaning of the full peace al-Asad is talking about, you must enter serious negotiations with the Syrian delegation in Washington and demand clear answers.

[Peri] But the head of our delegation, Ambassador Itamar Rabinovich, complains that his colleague, Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, has been evading the issue.

[Al-Baz] I should like to point out that Rabinovich is an excellent choice. He is one of your best diplomats. He is an academic whose heart is in the right place. He is smart and moderate. He has no hang-ups or prejudices that

inhibit him from making contacts. He is the man best suited to prompt the other side to change its attitude toward Israel.

[Peri] Have the Syrians changed their attitude toward us? Who are we in their eyes?

[Al-Baz] I have been following the public debate in your country as to whether the Arabs can and should be trusted. I believe there is no room for such an argument, because dealing with such theories always leads to confusion and to conclusions that are inconsistent with the constantly changing situation.

[Peri] Let me rephrase my question: When you discuss Prime Minister Rabin with President al-Asad, do you get the impression that al-Asad believes him?

[Al-Baz] I suppose President al-Asad has not yet asked himself whether he does or does not believe Rabin. My feeling is that al-Asad believes he can "do business" with Rabin and conduct give-and-take negotiations with him. My impression is that al-Asad has no inhibitions or hang-ups with regard to Rabin. The entire Arab world knows that the Labor government came to power with a peace program.

[Peri] Nevertheless, he refuses to meet Rabin.

[Al-Baz] At this point, there is no sense in such a meeting. On the contrary, think what would happen if they met and nothing came out of it. This would do a lot of damage to the process.

We have experience with summit meetings. President al-Sadat went to Jerusalem, Haifa, and Beersheba. Your prime minister came to Ismailia and the process almost came to a halt. Then he visited Cairo, Aswan, and Alexandria. They also met in Sharm al-Shaykh, and this meeting too was unnecessary and almost led to an explosion.

Peace was ultimately brought about by our delegations, which sat together with the Americans and conducted negotiations.

[Peri] Rabin is pressuring for such a meeting based on the assumption that a *tete-a-tete* session with al-Asad will create a common language and will affect public opinion, both in Syria and in Israel.

[Al-Baz] Based on my acquaintance with both of them, I believe they are the best candidates for a summit meeting. They are both brave leaders who are prepared to take responsibility and make tough decisions. I believe the right chemistry will be created between them when they meet, but I do not think such a meeting will result in a peace agreement.

[Peri] Who do you find it easier to negotiate with: Rabin, who is famous for his security awareness, or Peres, with his vision about peace and a green Middle East?

[Al-Baz] To tell you the truth, despite the differences in their personalities, I find it easy to deal with both of them. It is good that they are totally different from their predecessors, the Likud people. Your previous government was made up of introverts. They never bothered to tell us what they thought should be done, what was troubling them, or what their plans were.

[Peri] What is the difference between Peres and Rabin?

[Al-Baz] Rabin does not talk as much as Shim'on. Peres enjoys lecturing about the future, about his vision. He has a treasure trove of ideas. Rabin is much more cautious about what he says. I suppose he is conscious of the responsibility he shoulders, not just in his capacity as prime minister, but also as the highest-ranking man in charge of the security of the State of Israel. My impression is that Rabin is more of an introvert than Peres, but when we talk he does not keep quiet. He definitely responds, although he does not initiate conversation. When one succeeds in stimulating him to talk, he definitely talks.

It was interesting to find out that both have similar perceptions about the future, although Peres, much more than Rabin, is willing to go into details. Peres has dreams and he is willing to share them with you. Rabin focuses on the question of what can be achieved within reason. They are both thinking men, the difference being that Rabin is a cerebral man, whereas Peres goes after his imagination and heart. It should be pointed out that both of them are open to ideas and are not stuck on old conceptions.

The problem is that Rabin does not give you an answer on the spot. He prefers to take his time, perhaps to consult with his men. Peres responds immediately.

[Peri] Is that also the way you "sell" them to the leaders of the Arab world?

[Al-Baz] I most definitely do not sell them. We usually present the picture, the political mood in your country. We present Rabin and Peres differently than we presented the Likud government. We tell them that their responses are direct and that they say what is on their mind without hiding anything, whereas their predecessors did not even bother to tell us either yes or no.

There is yet another important difference between Rabin and Peres and the Likud people: It seems to me that they respect the Arabs and that, contrary to their predecessors, they do not deride them, their culture and mentality. They do not feel superior to the Arabs. Shamir, Sharon, Eytan, and Ge'ula Kohen did not even mean peace. Even Arens was careless with his pronouncements and managed to arouse anger.

[Peri] Probably, you also get reports about the rivalry between Rabin and Peres.

[Al-Baz] Even if theirs is a charged relationship, which I find natural, this is not reflected in the negotiations. Quite the contrary, I can attest to the collaboration

between them. We talk to one, and the other picks up from the exact same point where the first one left off.

[Peri] What exactly is the role you play? Are you the man in charge of secret missions, a go-between?

[Al-Baz] I do not relay messages. We, the Egyptians, have a larger role. We are partners, we are involved. First of all, Syria is an Arab country with which we have an historic and strong relationship. We appreciate its importance in the Arab world, its security needs, and internal stability. Our security is linked to that of Syria.

It should be pointed out that Egypt and Syria have a mutual defense pact, and that when we talk about Syria we are talking about an ally. We have an obligation toward them, and vice versa, and we defend their position.

[Peri] Is there a red telephone line between President Mubarak and President al-Asad?

[Al-Baz] There is not. They speak on a regular phone.

[Peri] Perhaps you could share the secret with us: Why does every meeting with President al-Asad last so many hours?

[Al-Baz] President al-Asad is very meticulous about expressing his positions and opinions in clear terms. He is not just a politician, but also a statesman, and he has a lot of patience. In addition to that, he is particularly fond of history. He is well-versed in it, and he likes to cite examples from history to illustrate his position. I should like to point out that al-Asad is a good listener. I know very few statesmen endowed with the patience to listen to their fellow men. He poses you with a challenge and stimulates you to react, and he has plenty of patience to listen to your response.

[Peri] What is he interested in? What does he ask you about Israel?

[Al-Baz] He is interested in all the details: How the Israelis conducted the negotiations with Egypt, what can be expected of them, what motivates them, what are the differences in the political concepts of the Likud and Labor, and what is their attitude toward the Arab world.

[Peri] And what does he say when you tell him that the Israelis distrust his intentions and want proof of Syria's peace intentions?

[Al-Baz] I do not do that. It is not our position to speak in the name of Israel and say that "the Israelis want so and so from you...."

Also, I cannot possibly come to al-Asad and say that the Israelis want proof of the seriousness of his intentions. If I did that, it would mean that we shared Israeli suspicions that al-Asad does not want to live in peace with Israel. And, after all, that is not what we think. We think that he definitely wants peace.

[Peri] Does al-Asad really know us?

[Al-Baz] He knows you quite well, but I do not think there are any Arabs who know you better than we do. We know you first-hand, as do the Palestinians in the territories who understand you and your motives and require no explanations. We do not have to guess.

The Syrians know you better now than in the past because of the direct negotiations. And, you are right in reiterating the need for direct contacts between your leadership and the Syrian top leaders, but you should not insist or pressure. It will come. I am sure.

[Peri] If al-Asad is reluctant to personally meet Rabin, why should he not authorize his foreign minister, Faruq al-Shar', to meet secretly with Shim'on Peres?

[Al-Baz] It is a matter of principle for the Syrians not to have secret meetings. They distrust their purpose. What can be achieved in a secret meeting that cannot be attained in direct negotiations? Also, there is no sense in such a meeting because the talks between the delegations in Washington have not yet reached a stage that would justify upgrading the level of the meetings.

[Peri] You probably remember the secret meetings between the late Moshe Dayan and Hasan al-Tuhami in Morocco to prepare President al-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem.

[Al-Baz] To this day I am not sure that those meetings paved al-Sadat's way. It is hard to tell what really happened there. I spoke with each of them separately, and each gave me his own version. That is exactly why secret meetings are unnecessary.

[Peri] We distrust al-Asad. He has been procuring weapons, calling for a "vague" peace, and operating Hizballah against us.

[Al-Baz] That distrust is exaggerated. I can very well understand your suspiciousness of the Syrians when they were your main enemy and procured weapons and missiles. The Syrians also distrust you. I suggest that you both stop distrusting each other. Syria has always meticulously honored its obligations to you. Your border with Syria is quiet. They do not threaten your security.

Even if they procure weapons, that is not the key issue. After all, you are doing the same thing, and you have not given up your nuclear option. Countries occasionally tend to improve their military balance in order to improve their bargaining position in negotiations, so as not to negotiate from a position of weakness.

[Peri] And what about Hizballah? The Syrians are not exactly stopping them from operating against us.

[Al-Baz] I would not say they "welcome" Hizballah's activities. At most, they "put up" with them. Neither Syria nor the Lebanese Government control them. I seriously doubt your argument that Syria supplies arms to Hizballah. Iran does, but Syria does not. Hizballah has its own methods.

[Peri] Many people in our country believe that al-Asad is not interested in Israel. He wants financial aid, U.S. backing, and to get Syria removed from the list of countries supporting international terror.

[Al-Baz] That is incorrect. Al-Asad is interested in Syria's security and internal stability, and as long as he has an Israeli enemy on the other side of the border he does not have full security and cannot afford to divert resources to development, industries, and agricultural projects. And, you must not forget, you are occupying some of his land.

And now I will say what I think is most important: Most Arabs already accept the existence of the State of Israel, both with their minds and hearts. My impression is that al-Asad recognizes Israel and wants to live with it in respectable peace.

[Peri] Based on your experience, could you please tell us what is the Syrian weakest point? What is it that we should not do?

[Al-Baz] Honor, you should not offend their honor. They are as vulnerable as you are. Do not pose to al-Asad conditions for a withdrawal, as if he did not have a public opinion to think about. Let them take the initiative and display flexibility. You should not believe for a minute that only Syria's top echelon calls the shots. Syria is much more open today. The government takes popular sentiment into account and there is an opposition. It is not a totalitarian regime which ignores popular sentiment. Countries such as Syria are today educating a generation of youngsters about political awareness, and it is not easy to change the mentality overnight.

Anybody walking down the streets of Syria today can hear talk against the government. Al-Asad needs time to explain. Also, he cannot and does not want to throw all the opponents of the process in jail. He would rather persuade them and obtain their assistance. Here, I have given you food for thought.

[Peri] Labor Secretary General Nisim Zvili said what he did about a future Palestinian state and an uproar ensued in Israel.

[Al-Baz] I read about it. It is healthy and good for people to express themselves, even if their opinions are outside the consensus. You will see, in three years Zvili's words will become the consensus.

[Peri] In other words, there is no room for illusions. What is happening now is leading to a Palestinian state.

[Al-Baz] I suppose so. A Palestinian entity which will initially be linked to Jordan must be created. If you insist on giving them only self-rule, the Palestinian problem will turn into a time bomb. I know that you are anguishing over the question of whether 'Arafat will be able to run affairs in the territories and whether they will have economic independence. These are the right questions.

[Peri] You want us to help the Palestinians raise funds. What about abolishing the Arab boycott against Israel?

[Al-Baz] It is plain to me that the Arab boycott will disappear as soon as peace agreements are signed with Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, and the Palestinians. I estimate that by this coming fall, or within a year at most, we will have agreements. In my opinion, this is the last year of the Arab boycott. There will no longer be a reason for its existence.

[Peri] What do you think Saddam Husayn wants? Some swear he wants to join the peace process, while others claim he will yet give us a bad surprise.

[Al-Baz] To tell you the truth, I do not know. I have no idea what he wants.

[Peri] With your experienced and sober eyes, how do you see the Middle East in another five years?

[Al-Baz] More stable and safer, with more traffic across the borders. Even if old fears and suspicions do not disappear, Israel will no longer be an anomaly, but a recognized neighbor. I am not sure it will be the green Middle East of Peres' scenario, but there will be contacts, economic relations, and tourism. Israelis will be free to move in the Arab world.

[Peri] Will there be economic cooperation between Syria and Israel?

[Al-Baz] I am sure about it, just as I am sure that I am speaking to you now.

[Peri] I must end with two personal questions. You have been involved in the peace process for 17 years and you have made a significant contribution. At the beginning, however, I believe you were very reluctant. In his book, Isma'il Fahmi wrote that when al-Sadat informed a small group of people in Cairo about his intention to visit Jerusalem you shouted: "The president has gone mad, he should be tied up."

[Al-Baz] That is not true. I thought al-Sadat was serious, but that we should not act on the spur of the moment and that the matter should be given a second thought. I do not want to brag about what I did in the process. I did my share. I had a job. I contributed to the process.

It is true that I was initially skeptical. I wondered whether Israel would respond. I knew we would have to deal with the Likud government. Today I am definitely pleased. There is no room for an analogy between the past and the situation today. Many of our suspicions and the image we had about you turned out to be totally unfounded. Had it not been for the peace with Egypt, we would not be where we are today.

[Peri] When the time comes and you make a personal visit to Israel, what would you like to do?

[Al-Baz] As in Egypt, I prefer informal and casual meetings. I know your politicians, and I would go on

such a trip to talk to your intellectuals—writers, painters, academics—and to the young generation of politicians. I have no desire to go touring the country. I do no longer have the curiosity to see new places. I prefer the company of people.

Mufti Urges Killing of Israelis

NC0203135294 Cairo AL-ARABI in Arabic 28 Feb 94 p 1

[Text] His Eminence Mufti of the Republic Dr. Muhammad Sayyid Tantawi has called on Palestinians to kill an equal number of Israelis. Asked by an AL-ARABI correspondent if an earlier statement he made, expressing readiness for dialogue with the Israelis, remains valid after the massacre in the Ibrahimi mosque, the mufti asked: "What is the use of canceling dialogue between the Arabs and Israelis?"

The AL-ARABI correspondent said the mufti's office represents a symbol for Muslims in Egypt and is therefore in a delicate position; it must not get embroiled in efforts aimed at normalization with the enemy, something that several professional associations and popular organizations still oppose. The mufti commented, saying: "Don't get emotional. We are averse to dialogue with no one, as long as it can help to solve problems and conflicts."

Israeli Ambassador Receives Death Threats

JN0303094294 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 3 Mar 94 p 29

[Text] Israeli diplomatic sources in Cairo have said the Israeli ambassador in Cairo has received threats that he will be killed if he does not hasten to leave Cairo. The sources added that all Israeli Embassy diplomats have received similar recurrent threats over the past few days in protest against the Israeli massacre, which killed and wounded a large number of worshippers at the Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron.

The AL-RA'Y correspondent has learned that the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs rejected a request by Israeli ambassador to Egypt David Sultan to bring in 40 Israeli security experts to enhance security measures around the Israeli Embassy.

Grand Imam on Terrorism, al-Azhar Role

NC0203124294 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 21 Feb 94 p 5

[Interview with al-Azhar Grand Imam Shaykh Jad-al-Haqq 'Ali Jad-al-Haqq by an unidentified correspondent; place and date not given]

[Text] [AL-WAFD] What is the al-Azhar stance on events in Egypt now?

[Jad-al-Haqq 'Ali Jad-al-Haqq] Your question appears to concern media reports on clashes between some groups

and the police under the name of (terrorism and combating terrorism). I would like to say first and very clearly: Events in Egypt cannot be called terrorism. Most of the incidents and attacks by groups on policemen are reaction. The incidents are either criminal ones that violate the law or acts of revenge. Revenge is well known in Upper Egypt. It is wrong to say that these incidents and their causes are terrorism. "I believe that this is very clear."

[AL-WAFD] But aren't they attributed to religion?

[Jad-al-Haqq] That is something else. If a thief steals and says (in the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful), what do we do with him? There is nothing we can do. But it is wrong to call this Islam or the Islamic groups and not say what it really is: This is a thief and this is a killer. Every incident must be identified for what it really is. Not everything need be attributed to an Islamic group, because Islam is innocent of these actions. Islam gives no one the right to exact punishment himself. It permits no one to steal, kill, or scare people. How can we affiliate those who do such things with Islam and say that these are Islamic groups? This is wrong.

[AL-WAFD] But you might agree with me that there are particular ideas of which some people are convinced. Are their actions based on these ideas?

[Jad-al-Haqq] This might be the case but the al-Azhar has called on these people to go to the clerics when they are in doubt about something. If these people do not go to the clerics and raise their ideas with them, how can we identify them?

Let them be described by the crimes they have committed when they are tried. Their ideas will then become known and the clerics can debate them.

[AL-WAFD] Your Eminence, remember how the military court that tried the killers of [former Awqaf minister] Shaykh al-Dhahabi in 1977 said the al-Azhar and its clerics failed to play their role and added that their absence from the arena was a reason for the religious vacuum. It saw the al-Azhar as responsible for the appearance and spread of terrorism. As in the past, the same words are reiterated very often these days, are they not?

[Jad-al-Haqq] Without criticizing the ruling to which you referred, that was a judicial point of view. It wasn't fair in terms of the reality. Those who take their information from the media are slack in their duties. The media does not cover the al-Azhar and does not report the steps taken by it or the things it is doing. Preachers are all over the country, institutes' clerics are in all the villages and throughout the whole country, and everyone is performing his propagation duty. Where is the slackness?

Al-Azhar's task is to give advice, not to carry weapons or chase the outlaws. This is the task of other quarters. If the al-Azhar's effort is not known to those who take their

information from the media, then it is they who have fallen short in their knowledge. Al-Azhar has never been absent from the arena and it isn't now.

[AL-WAFD] Does this mean that you don't agree there is a religious vacuum?

[Jad-al-Haqq] The religious vacuum is in education, not in life in general. The clerics are doing their job everywhere. The real vacuum is in education, from the nursery school to the university.

[AL-WAFD] Criticism addressed to al-Azhar in the past few years did not come from outside al-Azhar alone, but from its own scholars as well.

[Jad-al-Haqq] Every man has his own way; not everyone upholds the same views. The clerics who accuse al-Azhar of slackness should ask themselves what they are offering.

[AL-WAFD] We cannot overlook that the major extremist organization is led by an al-Azhar scholar, Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman.

[Jad-al-Haqq] God knows that al-Azhar is doing its duty, from the oldest shaykhs to the youngest student. But every man has his own beliefs and his approach to performing his duties. With all due respect for his person, Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman has his own beliefs and his approach, which is not approved by Islam.

[AL-WAFD] What is your view of that approach?

[Jad-al-Haqq] I have nothing to add to what I have already said. You said that Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rahman criticizes al-Azhar although he is an al-Azhar graduate. I said Satan disobeyed the orders of the Lord.

[AL-WAFD] In 1977, al-Azhar Grand Imam 'Abd-al-Halim Mahmud had to issue a statement, which was not published at the time, defending al-Azhar over accusations leveled by the state and Islamic groups. Do you think you need such a statement?

[Jad-al-Haqq] No, we do not need it, because we promote the call and defend nobody. We advise all the people. Al-Azhar statements were issued at the right time. As I said, everyone has his way.

[AL-WAFD] But the state and society are demanding that you play some role in fighting the growing Islamic violence. Do you think you have a role to play?

[Jad-al-Haqq] The role of al-Azhar or propagation is to give advice. If the target population fails to respond, al-Azhar does not have the physical power to impose order. This is the job of the other apparatuses.

[AL-WAFD] You have not been involved in the mediation attempts that some people are trying to undertake. Why?

[Jad-al-Haqq] Al-Azhar does not involve itself in everything that comes to people's minds. It is always useful to give the opportunity to other institutions that are involved in propagating Islam, such as the licensed associations. There is no harm if people intervene in this issue or if they offer to mediate in it. I have no information on the details. They offered mediation more than once and I don't know what has been done about it.

[AL-WAFD] Do you think al-Azhar can play a role in patching up discord or in curbing the extent of the violence?

[Jad-al-Haqq] We can only rectify the discord if we know about it. Al-Azhar knows only one party to the conflict, namely, the government. But if the other party becomes known, then al-Azhar could intercede. We don't know them personally and we don't know their principles. This is because we read about them in the press only when events occur.

[AL-WAFD] But haven't you received their writings (books and leaflets)?

[Jad-al-Haqq] Yes. We receive some of their ideas and books. We study them in a scientific way. But the names of their authors do not appear in the books. The books have no titles or addresses. They are merely books seized by the police. Then we are asked if the books contain sound ideas. We respond accordingly.

[AL-WAFD] Don't you believe that the discussion of these ideas in the media would produce good results?

[Jad-al-Haqq] It would have been better for the media to keep away from the rumors and exaggeration of events. But the media, be they in Egypt or abroad, have failed to do so. Perhaps the media in Egypt have, regrettably, been affected by reports coming from abroad.

[AL-WAFD] In the early eighties, you were one of those who supervised dialogue with the youths who are described as extremists. Now, after 10 years, do you believe the dialogue represents the ideal method?

[Jad-al-Haqq] Doubtless, prophets were not sent to the people by means of guns, but by the word, which calls for righteousness and peace, as well as by the call for dialogue. The Koran is full of dialogue between the prophets and their peoples and between Prophet Muhammad, God bless him and grant him salvation, and his people. The dialogue must come first.

[AL-WAFD] Some people blame you, saying that instead of focusing on confronting the extremists, you are fighting others by confiscating their books.

[Jad-al-Haqq] Al-Azhar does not confiscate books or ideas. It only prohibits those attacking religion.

[AL-WAFD] Does al-Azhar have its chance to reply in the various media?

[Jad al-Haqq] No. Al-Azhar has a limited framework that is not part of censorship. Al-Azhar authorizes the printing of the Koran and the prophet's sayings only. These can only be printed with the permission of al-Azhar. Al-Azhar revises the text of the prophet's sayings and authorizes the printing. Apart from that, al-Azhar does not interfere. Al-Azhar only examines that which comes from individuals, groups, or the state. Al-Azhar gives its opinion as an expert, not as a censor.

[AL-WAFD] Many writings and official opinions in the West, particularly in the United States, started referring

to the Muslim world as the new enemy and the substitute for Communism. What is your comment?

[Jad al-Haqq] This is obvious. They mean what they say. This is evident in the United States and Europe's campaign against the Muslims and their issues. But particular spots in the Muslim world have enough problems, which prevent them from carrying out their humanitarian duties and developing and promoting their financial and economic resources. Thorns are being planted in the Muslim world.

Kuwait

Government Welcomes Sending UN Observers to 'Palestine'

LD0303101094 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0739 GMT
3 Mar 94

[Excerpt] UN, 3 Mar—The State of Kuwait has welcomed the initiative of UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali, showing readiness to send UN observers to occupied Palestinian territories. Kuwait said that it would be appropriate for the International Committee of the Red Cross to have special responsibility for civilians living under Israeli occupation with a view to ensuring their safety.

In his address to the UN Security Council during a debate on the situation in occupied Arab territories last night, Muhammad Abu al-Hasan, Kuwait's permanent representative at the United Nations, stressed the need to disarm Israeli settlers, some of whom had perpetrated the vile massacre in Ibrahim's mosque in Hebron last Friday.

The Kuwaiti representative said that the Security Council had to make Israel responsible for protecting Palestinians from the recklessness of those who wanted to hinder the peace process. He said that settlers had to be disarmed and the extremists among them had to be put under constant surveillance. [passage omitted]

Yemen

Political Forces Committee Meets, Reviews Situation

JN0203203794 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Text] The Political Forces Dialogue Committee held a meeting in the economic and commercial capital, Aden, today. The committee reviewed the latest military incidents that occurred in some areas of the republic. It

stressed the need to prevent further incidents and to place the country's higher national interest above all other considerations.

The Political Forces Dialogue Committee voiced its satisfaction with the positive results of the recent moves and stressed the need to intensify efforts to put an end to all these incidents and this tension and to help the military committee and the other subcommittees. The committee will resume its meeting to discuss other issues.

Military Committee Visits Commands in Abyan

JN2802211094 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 28 Feb 94

[Text] The military committee, composed of a Yemeni military team, a Jordanian military team, an Omani military team, and the U.S. and French military attaches, this afternoon began to pay field visits to Abyan Governorate.

After arriving in Abyan Governorate, the committee visited the Madram Brigade Command and explained the measures taken and the decisions that the committee has made in accordance with the powers authorized by the political leadership.

Afterward, the committee visited the al-'Amaliqah Brigade Command and explained the measures agreed by the joint military committee as well as the tasks that will be carried out through direct supervision and monitoring in order to make sure that the forces have returned to their previous positions and that the checkpoints and recently erected roadblocks have been removed.

The joint committee has set up a field subcommittee from its personnel. The subcommittee is charged with staying in Abyan in order to follow up the implementation of instructions and make sure that all parties comply with them.

The committee voiced satisfaction with the commitment to the instructions, issued by both the defense minister and the chief of staff, to all units to return to their positions in accordance with the directives of the political leadership.

Tariq 'Aziz Meets Patriarchs, Reviews U.S. 'Plot'
JN0203175204 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio
Network in Arabic 1530 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz has called for efforts to be intensified and for objections to be more loudly raised in the region and the world against the unjust ones and aggressors who covet peoples' rights and threaten their security and legitimate interests. He stressed the need for justice and peace to prevail among peoples.

Receiving a delegation of Eastern Catholic patriarchs, Tariq 'Aziz reviewed the dimensions of the plot that targets all countries of the region and their peoples' security, stability, and peace. He said that the unjust blockade, which the arrogant powers, especially the United States and Zionism, insist on imposing on Iraq, constitutes one of the landmarks of this plot. He stressed that the blockade must be lifted since Iraq has honored its obligations in accordance with Resolution 687.

Bishop Rafael (Bidawid), head of the delegation and the Babylon Chaldean patriarchate, stressed the need to put an end to the suffering of the patient Iraqi people through serious [word indistinct] at all forums to lift the unjust blockade and to establish peace and justice in the region.

U.S. Mine Explodes, Kills 3 Children in Safwan
JN0303104394 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0940 GMT
3 Mar 94

[Text] Al-Basrah, southern Iraq, 3 Mar (INA)—Three children have been killed in the Safwan subdistrict when a mine dropped on farms there by U.S. aircraft during the hateful 30-state aggression went off.

The newspaper AL-THAWRAH, quoting its correspondent in al-Basrah, said that when it went off, the mine killed two children instantly, tearing their bodies apart. As for the third child, he first lost his four limbs. He later died on his way to hospital.

The paper indicated that this incident is the third in the past two weeks. All in all, these incidents have killed six children and wounded 10 others in Safwan and nearby farms.

U.S. Aircraft Violations Protested to UN
JN0103133894 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1100 GMT
1 Mar 94

[Text] New York, 1 Mar (INA)—Iraq has protested to the UN General Secretariat continuing U.S. aircraft violations of Iraq's airspace with the aim of provocation and surveillance, as well as dropping thermal flares.

In a memorandum he handed to UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali, Iraq's permanent representative to the

world body said that from 11 to 20 February, the aircraft mounted 569 sorties over a wide area of northern and southern Iraq.

On 14 February, a hostile plane dropped four thermal flares over al-Badriyah of al-Qush sub-district in Ninawa Governorate. On 18 February, a hostile formation dropped two thermal flares over al-Namrud sub-district in Ninawa. On the same day, a hostile plane dropped three thermal flares north of the hamlet of Fa'idah in Ninawa Governorate.

Three U.S. TR-1 reconnaissance planes violated Iraq's airspace over al-Basrah, Qal'at Salih, al-'Amarah, al-Qurnah, Artawiyah, and Gharb al-Basiyah, and then headed to Saudi space.

Leaflet Dropped by Allied, Kuwaiti Aircraft Cited
JN0303093894 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio
Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Text] Iraq has informed the UN Security Council that U.S. and British warplanes have continued to conduct aggressive and provocative acts by dropping leaflets, and that the Kuwaiti rulers have recently flown drones to drop leaflets on Iraqi territory.

In a letter delivered to the UN Security Council president by the Iraqi permanent representative to the United Nations circulated today, Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf detailed the aggressive and provocative acts carried out by U.S. and other warplanes, which violate the Iraqi airspace, flying from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. During their flights, these planes dropped provocative and hostile leaflets promoting instigation against Iraq.

The foreign minister added: While condemning these aggressive and provocative acts, we hold the Saudi and Kuwaiti rulers fully responsible for their participation in acts of aggression against Iraq, for the extensive material losses these acts cause, and also for the security, economic, political, and moral threats they pose to Iraq and the Iraqi people.

Assembly Speaker Receives Bulgarian Party Leader

JN0203174894 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio
Network in Arabic 1530 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Text] National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih today received Veselin Koshev, leader of the Bulgarian Liberal Democratic Party, and his delegation.

The National Assembly speaker reviewed the dimensions of the U.S. plot aimed at harming Iraq's sovereignty and national unity. He also reviewed the Iraqi people's extensive efforts to rebuild what the evil ones have destroyed and to continue the march of progress and reconstruction under the leadership of struggler President Saddam Husayn. He emphasized Iraq's desire

to restore relations with Bulgaria to the state that prevailed before the spiteful 30-state aggression in the service of the two friendly peoples' interests.

The leader of the Bulgarian Liberal Democratic Party praised the brave stand of the Iraqi leadership and people against a fierce, unprecedented aggression and blockade. He expressed his party's readiness to do all it can to break the unjust blockade imposed on Iraq and to promote the relations of friendship and cooperation between Iraq and Bulgaria.

The meeting was attended by Safa' al-'Umar, head of the National Assembly's Arab and International Relations Committee.

Minister Inaugurates Liquid Gas Filling Plant

JN0203191994 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1720 GMT
2 Mar 94

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Mar (INA)—Oil Minister Dr. Safa' Jawad Hadi today inaugurated the automatic al-Wa'iliyah liquid gas filling plant in Mosul, northern Iraq, on the occasion of the 21st anniversary of the immortal nationalization anniversary, which was observed yesterday. The plant is the first automatic plant built by national Iraqi cadres. It has a production capacity of 15,000 gas cylinders per day in two shifts.

The expenses of the project amounted to 4 million dinars. No imported materials were used in the project.

Columnist Blames Saudis for U.S. Airline Deal

JN0203135694 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic
21 Feb 94 p 2

["Standpoint" column by Sabri Hammadi: "Deal and Evidence"]

[Text] Although the Saudi regime, the world's biggest oil producer and exporter, is facing the worst financial crisis in its history and is being compelled to cut its general expenditure in the 1994 budget by 20 percent, it has signed a contract with the United States to purchase 50 airliners for \$6 billion dollars only! Since that regime is no longer capable of paying for its purchases in cash due to a drop in liquidity, it has been agreed that an American bank will finance the deal.

When we know that this deal, in which Clinton is said to have intervened personally by pressuring Fahd to sign it, will save the United States 100,000 jobs whose occupants are threatened with dismissal, it becomes very clear how far this servile king can go in order to serve his American overlords and to help them overcome their pressing economic and social problems and crises. Conversely, it also becomes very clear how far the Americans can go in order to milk the Saudi regime and plunder its oil wealth, which actually belongs to the Arab people in Saudi Arabia and the entire Arab nation.

With this deal the Saudi regime proves once more that it is willing to go to any length in its non-patriotic and anti-Arab behavior, which has turned the oil wealth into a scourge for the Arab nation. He is no longer part of the Arab nation. In fact, he is not concerned about the nation's interests and economic, security, and development needs. Here he is rushing to prove his loyalty to the United States by offering it services which no other agent regime can give. It suffices to say that he has contributed, and is contributing, toward the drop in oil prices to their lowest level in five years for insisting not to cut his production.

It is obvious the Al Sa'ud regime has no need for all those airliners. It is also obvious that a similar deal could have been concluded with other companies at lower cost. But what could Fahd do when it was the U.S. President who ordered him to sign the deal and the one who intervened, pressured, and also announced that he will intervene whenever necessary in order to secure commercial deals for his country? Despite this intervention, it is only fair to say that Fahd was also concerned about securing job opportunities for 100,000 Americans now and at any time in the future, and that he was not less concerned than Clinton about the U.S. economy and society, despite the fact that this concern and subservience to the United States is at great financial and political cost to his regime. There are many signs and evidence of the bankruptcy and financial crisis facing the regime. Furthermore, there are indications of a growing religious and civilian opposition to the regime's policies and open subservience to the imperialist West, despite all the stop-gap political methods to limit and absorb this opposition.

It may be said that Fahd is behaving this way because he counts on the United States to protect his regime and its security and future. But such talk is meaningless, since many other regimes had once given their loyalty and subservience to the United States only to discover later that the United States did not guarantee anyone's security except its own security and interests. In fact, it helped overthrow those "allied" regimes when they were no longer useful and when it was convinced that its interests would be served better by an alliance with other regimes. But the problem with Al Sa'ud is that they have not learned and they are not willing to learn any lesson from what has happened.

Columnist on Arab Moves To End Israeli Boycott

JN0203151994 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic
21 Feb 94 p 7

[Article by Nawwaf Abu-al-Hayja: "The Arab League Between Blockade of Iraq and Normalization With Zionist Enemy"]

[Excerpts] Official reports from the Arab League and statements by some Arab officials say that the subject of ending Arab boycott of the Zionist enemy will be included in the agenda of the next session of the Arab

League Council. Officials in several Arab states have also been quoted as saying that certain governments in the Gulf, the Arabian Peninsula, and elsewhere will act independently on this subject regardless of the outcome of the Arab League meetings to be held at the level of foreign ministers.

It is astonishing indeed to watch Arab regimes hurtling toward Tel Aviv when their governments refuse to even mention the subject of lifting the unfair blockade on Iraq—an Arab country and founding member of the Arab League. Worse, some regimes are willing to pay billions of dollars in bribes in order to prolong this blockade, which has continued for more three and a half years now. For its part, the United States has pushed, and is still pushing, matters in the direction desired by the Zionists, using both the carrot and the stick. Late in January 1994, the U.S. Congress approved a bill calling for a U.S. arms embargo on any government refusing to end the Arab boycott on the Zionist entity and on the foreign companies dealing with that entity. [passage omitted]

The logic on which the Arab League was founded says that the league should act in accordance with higher Arab interests. Do these interests now mean approving agreements of abandonment and surrender to the Zionist enemy, blockading Iraq and Libya, endorsing the occupation of Somalia, and acquiescing to the massacre of the Palestinian Arab people—the massacre that has been continuing for more than six consecutive years?

Why are these heroes, who are ready with such great enthusiasm and unusual encourage to declare the lifting

of the Arab boycott on the usurper Zionist entity, not showing similar enthusiasm and courage toward the continuous criminal blockade on Arab Iraq?

Their attitude should be at least similar to, or even stronger than, the attitude of certain foreign states and parties. It is a shame, especially when they have often talked about Arab nationalism, Arab solidarity, justice, Arab order, and Arab rights. It is as if they meant Zionist, not Arab and Zionism, not Arabism.

In view of this, one cannot help but wonder about the usefulness of the league, now that it has deviated from, in fact abandoned, its own principles, disavowed its aims, and has become a burden rather than a coordinator for joint Arab action and a catalyst for pan-Arab efforts.

Three and a half years have passed while the Iraqi people have suffered from the blockade of the brothers before the enemies, because Iraqi geography says that any blockade on Iraq cannot be effective unless it is supported by the regimes in the neighboring Arab countries to the west and to the south, regardless of who is to the north (Turkey) and who is to the east (Iran). Despite this bitter reality, which contradicts all Arab values and morals and the principles of the Arab League Charter, the subject of the blockade has not been included on the agenda of any Arab League Council session. On what basis is the boycott of the Zionist enemy now being included in the agenda when the Zionist enemy still occupies Palestine, the Golan, southern Lebanon, and remains the historical and crucial enemy of the Arab nation? [passage omitted]

Rabin Reportedly To Cut U.S. Visit 'in Half'

TA0203185694 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1
Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Text] Before we close this newscast, we have another update: The prime minister has decided to cut short his visit to the United States, planned to begin in 10 days, due to the situation in the territories. Our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik has learned that at this stage, the visit is planned to be cut in half and will apparently include only meetings with the heads of the state and a few meetings with leaders of the U.S. Jewry.

Rabin Rejects Arab Parties' Threats to Stop Support

NC0303144994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400
GMT 3 Mar 94

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says it is unthinkable for a government relying on only 58 Knesset members to continue making decisions on extremely crucial issues in the life of the state. Rabin rejected threats by the Arab parties that they will cease to support the government if Tzomet joins the government coalition. Our correspondent in the north Yo'av Aviv reports that the prime minister was speaking at Kibbutz Ginnosar at the end of a meeting with Beduins from the north on the memorial day for Yig'al Allon.

Yitzhaq Rabin says the Palestinians' demand to open up the agreements for renegotiation in the wake of the massacre in Hebron is unacceptable, because if agreements are reopened after two months, what sense will be there to future agreements? Our correspondent adds that the prime minister explained that before the famous handshake with 'Arafat, he turned to the PLO leader and told him in connection with the signing of the agreement that this will be very difficult, and 'Arafat replied: I know.

Rabin Rejects PLO Demands To Disarm Settlers

TA0203165794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1600
GMT 2 Mar 94

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says the longer the peace talks are halted, the more difficult it will be to resume them and the more complicated the situation on the ground will become.

Speaking to the Foreign Press Association, Rabin rejected the PLO's demands for more radical action against the Israeli settlers in the territories. Jack Katzenell reports:

[Begin recording] [Katzenell] Prime Minister Rabin made an impassioned appeal to the Palestinian leadership not to allow the late Barukh Goldstein to succeed in his aim of halting the peace process by means of the atrocity at the Hebron mosque. These are crucial days, Rabin said, and much will depend on how quick the negotiations are resumed.

[Rabin] The longer it will be dragged, the more it will be difficult to resume them, and the situation on the ground will be complicated. I believe that at this stage, the leadership on both sides—the Palestinian and us—has to stand up, to overcome pain, sorrow, and agony, and to understand that the real solution is in the political field.

[Katzenell] Rabin rejected Palestinian demands for the disarming of all the settlers. For decades the settlers have been the object of Palestinian terrorism, Rabin said, and even since the Oslo agreement, they have been the victims of terrorist attacks by the organizations opposed to the peace.

[Rabin] In coping with terror and violence, there were Palestinian victims, mainly in confrontations with the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and other security forces, but terror by Israelis, killing, was very rare, if at all.

[Katzenell] Rabin also rejected suggestions that the settlers be evacuated from down-town Hebron. In his view, this would mean accepting the Palestinian demand for immediate negotiations on the future of the settlements, and that would be a breach of the Declaration of Principles. If we reopen signed agreements after only five months, Rabin said, what value will there be to any new agreements that we sign with the Palestinians. [end recording]

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1600 GMT on 2 March adds: "Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin today warned against the involvement of Russia in the peace process without coordination with the Americans. Rabin said that parties to the negotiations might take advantage of the absence of a Russian-U.S. cooperation.

"Speaking to foreign reporters, the prime minister said Israel will continue imposing the closure on the territories for as long as Israel believes it necessary. He added that the attorney general is examining the possibility of issuing additional detention orders against Kakh activists in the territories. Our correspondent Yiftah El'azar reports that Rabin further said: I have taken all the necessary steps to prevent a massacre in Hebron, to the best of my discretion and with the best means I had at my disposal."

Peres States Willingness To Discuss PLO Requests

TA0203194594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900
GMT 2 Mar 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said this evening that Israel will agree to discuss new PLO requests, provided they do not contradict the Declaration of Principles [DOP]. Speaking at a conference on Jewish communications in Jerusalem, Peres noted that the deputy Russian foreign minister and the Greek foreign minister, arrived in Israel today from Tunis. They brought a message from the PLO leadership stating it is very important that Israel realize these are indeed conditions for the resumption of the negotiations.

Minister Peres clarified that Israel had accepted some of the conditions, including the release of prisoners. Israel agrees that the UN Security Council resolution on the Hebron massacre include a temporary placement of foreign presence in Jericho and Gaza, in accordance with the DOP. We are also willing to discuss the Palestinian request that the autonomy police force be larger, Peres said. Our correspondent Amy Rhodes filed this report.

400 More Palestinian Security Detainees Released
NC0303132094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 3 Mar 94

[Text] Some 400 Palestinian security detainees were released from Qezi'ot prison this morning. Our correspondent for military affairs recalls that 500 Palestinian detainees were released the day before yesterday.

Telecommunication Workers Cut Telephone Lines
NC0303131794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 3 Mar 94

[Text] The District Labor Court in Tel Aviv is due to begin considering a request by the Bezeq [Telecommunications Company] management to issue a restraining order against workers who have adopted measures that have caused serious interruptions in telephone communications all over the country. Our correspondent Meron Tzur reports that the workers have deliberately cut telephone communications to hundreds of thousands of subscribers.

Dozens of company workers stormed the office of the director general of the Telecommunications Ministry in Megdal Shalom in Tel Aviv at noon today, shouting loudly to prevent him from explaining the nature of the Bezeq Company's new license.

Labor Court To Reconvene 6 Mar

NC0303145594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 3 Mar 94

[Text] The District Labor Court in Tel Aviv has ordered the Bezeq Company employees to return to normal work in another four hours and until 1300 on Sunday. The court will then reconvene to consider the company management's demand to issue restraint orders against the employees. Our correspondent Meron Tzur reports that the judge warned the employees that if they do not obey the order, they risk being held in contempt of court.

Kakh Members Detained During Demonstration

NC0303135994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 3 Mar 94

[Text] Scores of Bnai Akiva members are demonstrating near Hekhal Shlomo in Jerusalem to protest the murders in Hebron. The demonstrators say they denounce the murders, which is against the Torah's values and ethics.

Our correspondent reports that during the demonstration a number of Kakh members arrived at the scene with their flags and the police detained five of them.

Kakh Members Declare Defiance of Orders

TA0203201294 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Text] Restrictive orders were issued today also against residents of the settlement of Tapuah in Samaria. Judy Lotz met two of them, who declared they will disobey the orders:

[Begin recording] [Lotz] What does your order say, David?

[David Axelrod] My order says that I may not enter Hebron and Qiryat Arba' for three months, starting yesterday.

[Lotz] Did you have to turn in your gun?

[Axelrod] I did not receive this order, but I heard it exists.

[Lotz] Did they come to take away your gun?

[Axelrod] They left notice that I should turn it in.

[Lotz] Did you?

[Axelrod] I did not, and I have no such intention.

[Lotz] You are violating the law, are you not?

[Axelrod] Am I? Forsaking Jews to be murdered is a violation of our beliefs.

[Binyamin Ze'ev Kahana] I do not believe people will turn in their guns. I find this hard to believe. I believe people will rather sit in jail.

[Lotz] Will you turn in your gun?

[Kahana] I will turn in nothing. I find these orders insignificant. They are illegal, immoral, and unreasonable.

[Lotz] Will you travel to Hebron and Nabulus, in defiance of the orders?

[Kahana] I will go anywhere I please in this country. [end recording]

The police arrested today Eyal Noqed, another Kakh activist, who is one of the five the police are seeking to place under administrative detention. Our police affairs correspondent Uri Kohen-Aharonov has learned that Noqed was captured in an apartment in Ra'anana, following intelligence information. Currently, there are two Kakh members in police detention. Qiryat Arba' residents fear that exile orders will be issued this evening.

Settler Council Leaders Reject Orders on Weapons

TA0303071694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500
GMT 3 Mar 94

[Text] Several top officials from the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip and other settler leaders have called on the Jewish residents of Judea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip not to comply with the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] orders to hand over their weapons. Our correspondent Gil Litman reports that it is unclear whether the settler leaders' declaration also referred to the Kakh and Kahana Hay activists who were ordered to turn in their weapons. The call was published following telephone consultations between the leaders of the Council of Jewish Settlements. The declaration said that confiscating the weapons of the Jewish residents at such a time was tantamount to jeopardizing their lives. The proclamation was signed by the leaders of the Efrat, Qiryat Arba', and Mate Binyamin local councils.

[Writing on page 12 of Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT on 3 March, Tzvi Singer, Ilana Baum, and Arye Kiesel add: "Thirty Qiryat Arba' public figures and rabbis decided close to midnight last night to call on the local Jewish residents to refuse to surrender their weapons to the IDF if they are told to do so, and to choose prison instead." "Among the call signers are Tzvi Katzover, Elyaqim Ha'etzni, Rabbi Moshe Levinger, Rabbi Shim'on Bet-Tziyon, and No'am Arnon. Joining the call were heads of numerous local councils in the territories, including Yisra'el Har'el, chairman of the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip; Yinon Ahiman, head of the Efrat local council; and Pinhas Wallerstein, head of the Mate Binyamin local council."]

'Advisers' Meet With Former Lebanese President

TA0103195894 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1
Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 1 Mar 94

[Text] Two of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's close advisers secretly met in Paris with former Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil. Our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik has learned that the director general of the Prime Minister's Office and his political adviser met with al-Jumayyil on 8 February, approximately three weeks ago. The former Lebanese president was the one who initiated the meeting.

Police, Security Portfolio Offered to Refa'el Eytan

TA0203184294 Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television
Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has offered Refa'el Eytan the police and internal security portfolio. If Tzomet joins the government, it will receive the environment portfolio as well. In a meeting scheduled for tomorrow, Rabin and Peres will attempt to soften Meretz in anticipation of Tzomet's inclusion in the government. Our party affairs correspondent Yaron Deqel has the details:

The Eytan-Rabin contacts began a long time ago. In today's meeting with Likud members, Eytan revealed nothing at all. A nocturnal meeting between the Tzomet chairman and the prime minister on 28 February gave birth to a written document detailing points of agreement between the two. Today the Tzomet Knesset members [MK's] received from Eytan—each one individually—information about the document.

The Labor-Tzomet document stipulates that Refa'el Eytan will be police minister in charge of Israel's internal security. Tzomet will receive another portfolio—the environment—and if that happens, Minister Sarid may be appointed information minister.

In the document, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin pledges not to harm the Jewish settlements in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza and to permit 5,000 completed housing units to be occupied.

Today the Tzomet chairman invited NRP [National Religious Party] leader Zvulun Hammer and apprised him of the possibility that Tzomet may join the coalition. [passage omitted] The NRP is not involved in the Tzomet-Labor political moves at this point.

The prime minister informed Shim'on Peres of the details two days ago. The meeting was attended also by Histadrut official Giyora 'Eyni, who along with Tzomet MK Pini Badash had negotiated Tzomet's inclusion in the government.

Tomorrow Rabin and Peres will meet with Meretz ministers. Ministers Shahal and Sarid are still in the dark about the prime minister's plan to give their portfolios away to Tzomet people. The move seems to be coming together.

Labor Party Majority Favor Tzomet's Joining Government

NC0303151794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400
GMT 3 Mar 94

[Text] Minister Shim'on Shetrit says there is a solid majority in the Labor Party for the inclusion of [Tzomet Party leader] Refa'el Eytan in the government. According to him, Yitzhaq Rabin and Shim'on Peres are in favor of this. It became clear to him in talks with the party leaders that the majority of them support the inclusion of Tzomet on the basis of the government's basic guidelines and Tzomet's conditions, which are consistent with the government's basic guidelines. This is reported by our parties affairs correspondent Shmu'el Tal.

IDF To Review 'Opening Fire' Procedures

TA0203171994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1600
GMT 2 Mar 94

[Text] Initial findings from the Army's investigation into last night's killing of an Ari'el resident and the wounding of his wife have revealed serious defects in carrying out of Army procedures of opening fire by the soldiers on duty. Brigadier General Mufaz has ordered all soldiers serving in Judea and Samaria to review the Army's procedures on opening fire.

'Senior Official' Urges Removing Settlements*JN0303081294 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
3-4 Mar 94 p 1*

[By "JORDAN TIMES staff reporter" Nirmin Murad]

[Text] Jordan believes that the only way to ensure the protection of Palestinians in the occupied territories is through the removal of the settlements in the occupied territories, especially in high-tension areas such as Hebron and Jerusalem, a senior official told the JORDAN TIMES Wednesday.

The Kingdom also wants to see a more active role for the United Nations in the Middle East peace negotiations as well as in guaranteeing the protection of Palestinian citizens.

"Jordan's declared position is that Palestinians in the occupied territories have to be protected," said the official, who asked he remain anonymous.

Jordan, along with its Arab partners to the Arab-Israeli negotiations, pulled out of the Washington-based bilateral talks early in protest against the massacre of 60 worshippers in Hebron last week.

The PLO has placed several conditions on the resumption of negotiations, including the dismantling of settlements especially in Hebron and the Gaza Strip, move the issue of settlements from final-status negotiations to be current negotiations, disarm settlers and increase the number of Palestinian policemen.

Israel has already freed around 1,000 Palestinian detainees and announced it was ready to disarm 100 settlers. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, according to reports, was willing to accept international observers to supervise the transfer of power from Israel to Palestinians, possibly dismantle particularly trouble-some settlements, crack down on radical Jewish settlers and increase the size of the Palestinian police forces.

"We believe that the best security arrangements are that settlements are dismantled especially in Jerusalem and Hebron, the official said.

He said that these two areas are especially important because "of their historic value and the close contact between fundamentalist settlers and Palestinian residents in those areas."

"Jordan also calls for U.N. participation in negotiations," the official said.

But most importantly, the official said the issue of settlements should be moved forward to the current Arab-Israeli negotiations instead of relegating the sensitive debate to final-status negotiations.

"Jordan always believed that the delaying of this issue will have dangerous ramifications," the official said.

The official said that the head of the PLO political department, Faruq Qaddumi, will not visit Amman as previously scheduled and has instead gone to New York to discuss the proposed U.N. resolution on the Hebron massacre.

U.S. and Palestinian diplomats had been holding negotiations at the U.N. headquarters in New York to work out disagreements on wording and reach a final draft for a U.N. Security resolution condemning the Hebron Massacre.

Editorial Criticizes U.S. Stand on Hebron Resolution*JN0203101594 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
2 Mar 94 pp 1, 24*

[Editorial: "International Protection for the Palestinians and the Reprehensible U.S. Stand"]

[Text] After six days of ongoing UN Security Council meetings, it has become obvious that the United States is the side which is trying to prevent the issuance of an international resolution holding Israel responsible for the Ibrahimi Mosque massacre and compelling it to accept international observers that would provide some international protection for the Palestinians in the occupied territories.

This stand which placates Israel is a continuation of the U.S. policy adopted for decades by the successive U.S. administrations. This has encouraged Israel to pursue its human rights violations in the occupied territories, and has placed it above the law, and out of reach of any possible international inquiry.

Following the Hebron massacre that has been condemned by the entire international community, the current U.S. Administration under the pretext of not endangering the peace process, adopts a stand that lacks wisdom and far-sightedness when it seeks to prevent the implementation of the international community's will and the UN Security Council from responding to these calls which demand some kind of international protection for the Palestinians.

Does the Clinton administration need more than this torrent of innocent blood that was shed in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip last Friday to be convinced that a defenseless people need some kind of international protection, especially since Israel—army, border guard, and fanatic settlers, persist in shedding the blood of children, elderly people, and women without remorse and without fearing any possible international inquiry?

The issuance of a UN Security Council resolution providing the Palestinian people with international protection is another test of the seriousness of the U.S. role as a fair mediator in the Middle East crisis, how ethically credible it is, and how genuine are its continued claims that it defends human rights throughout the world.

Paper Questions West's Sympathy With Hebron Victims

JN0103102794 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 1 Mar 94
pp 1, 25

[Editorial: "Killers, Not Victims"]

[Text] World Zionism and its military tool, the Israeli entity, have been established against the background of a great lie; namely, the world's persecution of the Jews and the Europeans' alleged massacres of them. The Ramadan massacre, which was committed by a rancorous Zionist Jew at dawn last Friday, is one more piece of evidence to be added to hundreds of other pieces of evidence, which all prove that the persecution of the Jews was a big lie. This evidence exposes to the entire world the falsehood of the Zionist allegations that have been used to extort the West, which later adopted them to vent its wrath against the Arabs and Muslims.

The political Israeli condemnation of the Ramadan massacre does not absolve the Israeli entity from direct responsibility for this massacre. What Rabin has said is not enough to deny his joy over seeing the Palestinian blood spilt over the floor of the Ibrahimi Mosque or to deny his happiness with that racist action by a Jew who was brought up according to a rancorous Torah ideology that views the Arab as the target at which all rifles must be aimed and the Muslim as a potential victim that must be chased until shot dead. There is no difference between Rabin, Sharon, Shamir, and the Zionist killer with his American and Jewish roots. There is no difference between the Palestinian being killed by regular soldiers or by settlers who carry all the instruments of death, except the military uniform. It is natural for the Zionist school to produce all those killers whose hands are stained with the blood of the Palestinian people and whose nails have torn our flesh, which has been scorched by their warplanes, tanks, and bombs.

Besides, the world which happily watches massacres and is pleased to see peoples being torn apart by troubles and tragedies, cannot change from one massacre to another. It is hard, therefore, to believe that those who committed the massacre at the al-'Amiriyah shelter in Baghdad can be sincere in their sentiments toward the Ramadan massacre in Hebron. It is hard to expect them to be committed to ethics and values where the Ibrahimi Mosque massacre is concerned, while Muslims are being subjected to daily massacres, rape, death, hunger, and disease in Yugoslavia and behind the racist wall erected by the United States and its allies around the Iraqi people and their children's right to milk and their sick people's right to medicine.

The Ramadan massacre by the Jews and their allies, the enemies of the Palestinian rights and people, the enemies of all Arabs and Muslims is not the exception, but the rule. Therefore, it will be difficult for us to believe the West's condemnation of the massacre unless it is coupled by real action which punishes the aggressor, works to

establish a just peace, and puts an end to the Jewish allegations about their having been subjected to massacres and persecution.

Hebron-Born Resident Stabs Jordanian Doctor

JN0303090594 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
3 Mar 94 pp 36, 30

[Text] (A.S.), a 24-year old originally from Hebron and a resident of Amman, has stabbed Dr. 'Umar al-Far, who works in a private clinic, and his wife Olga, who is a Russian national and works as a nurse at Malhas Hospital, with a knife while they were downtown near the Habiba sweets shop near a shoe store.

The doctor was injured in the chest while his wife suffered wounds to the back. A youth who works inside the shoe store tried to intervene and was also injured. All are reported to be in good condition. Police arrested the assailant.

Columnist on 'Cultural Normalization' With Israel

JN2402171994 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 23 Feb
pp 30, 26

["The Last Station" column by Salih al-Qallab: "What Cultural Normalization?"]

[Text] Cultural normalization with Israel seems to be all the rage now—for both local and Arab intellectuals. It was a real issue at the recent elections of the Jordanian Writers Association and continues to engage the attention of a good many Arab intellectuals. For most of them, it seems that to hold our ground culturally makes up for the setbacks we have suffered on the battle front over the past four decades.

In fact, with an impending normalization in the military, economic, commercial, tourist, and water spheres, I cannot see how it will be possible to resist cultural normalization.

How will it be possible to buck the trend for cultural normalization when economic normalization will bring Israel right to the core of our lives and channels will open wide between our mortal, permanent enemy and ourselves?

Are we to bar access to the Israeli newspapers, counsel our viewers and listeners against tuning in to Israeli television and radio networks, and ostracize whoever reads a poem composed by an Israeli author or a literary work translated from Hebrew?

I, for one, am prepared to observe a decision to combat cultural normalization. But will local and Arab intellectuals show me and other like-minded persons the way to put this decision into practice?

I will admit that in this age of satellite communications, the world is now virtually a global village and culture is a universal and global concern. However, I take issue

with some intellectuals who are falling all over themselves to become familiar with Israeli literary works and figures.

How are we to combat cultural normalization when Israeli television gate-crashes our homes, when our radios are continually tuned in to Israeli stations, and practically every Jordanian and Arab daily runs a full page translated from one Israeli paper or another?

Would it promote the cause of the fight against cultural normalization, if we were to march through the streets tomorrow and demand that Arab Education Ministries keep the same curricula and not tell our children that Israel now belongs in the camp of our friends?

This may be one way to further this cause. However, assuming that Israel will continue to be viewed as an enemy in our school curricula, we must realize that an Arab child encountering Israelis and handling Israeli toys and candies is bound to be confused and perplexed.

Normalization is normalization; we can't be selective. It is pointless and meaningless to combat cultural normalization when we press ahead with normalization in military, economic and other areas, and when our intellectuals seem keen to read whatever is being turned out by Israel's mass media.

Arabs Urged To Use Talks Interruption for Coordination

JN0103100194 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 1 Mar 94 pp 1, 24

[Editorial: "Cutting Short the Bilateral Negotiations"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The Arab parties' move of cutting short the bilateral negotiations in Washington can be understood as a natural response that has been dictated by the repercussions of the horrendous Zionist massacre in Hebron and by the need to pause for a while to reconsider this course. After over two years of negotiations, the Israeli Government did not budge from its obstinate stands. Rather, it persisted in intransigence.

Had the Washington negotiations led to any tangible and practical results, or had they heralded such an outcome in the foreseeable future, then we could have said that the Arab parties' move of cutting short the negotiations was a prize for the Zionist extremists, who did not hesitate to publicly declare their desire to abort this process. But since the negotiations became an end in themselves, then cutting them short now or suspending them in the future will not much change the general standoff characterizing the talks.

It seems that the Arab parties were in need of such a dreadful shock so that they might wake up from the dream of running after the mirage of the Washington negotiations and from the effects of Israel's unrestrained policy all this time. The Arab parties need to pause a while to catch their breath and reconsider this futile

negotiatory course. They should use this time to reunite their stands, coordinate their negotiating policies more effectively, and work to achieve some of the basic requirements for the return to Washington. This is in order to achieve what is hoped from these negotiations, which have consumed a great deal of time and effort and resulted in more inter-Arab doubts and differences.

Energy, Supply Ministers Meet With Egyptian Trade Minister

JN2402181494 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 24 Feb 94

[Text] Today, Walid 'Asfur, minister of energy and mineral resources, and Radi Ibrahim, minister of supply, each received Mr. Mahmud Muhammad Mahmud, Egypt's minister of economy and foreign trade. The sessions addressed bilateral ties and ways to develop them further.

Mr. 'Asfur and Mr. Mahmud reviewed bilateral cooperation in the areas of energy and mineral resources and the progress made in linking Jordan, Syria, Turkey, Iraq, and Egypt in an electricity grid. They discussed the electricity grid link between Jordan and Egypt as part of the five-state chain. They also talked about the use of renewable energy and tapping solar energy for heating and power generating purposes. Also discussed was cooperation in harnessing wind to generate electricity. Jordan already has two such stations in al-Ibrahimiyyah and Jurf al-Darawish and, in cooperation with Germany, is working on a third with a 1.2 megawatt capacity.

Radi Ibrahim and the Egyptian minister met to discuss trade and the supply situation between the two countries. The Jordanian minister briefed the Egyptian minister and his delegation on his ministry's activities. Ibrahim told the Egyptian minister he would like to see bilateral trade increased, observing that, in the past, the exchanges lacked stability. Noting that the Higher Joint Jordanian-Egyptian Committee is due to convene after 'Id al-Fitr, the minister pointed to the need to draw up guidelines to boost bilateral trade.

The Egyptian minister stressed the need to boost economic ties with Jordan and called for pan-Arab economic integration. He lauded the Ministry of Supply's key function of making basic food items available and stabilizing prices.

Omani Envoy Conveys Message on Situation in Yemen

JN2402074394 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 24 Feb 94

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received Yusuf Bin-'Alawi 'Abdallah, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, at the Royal Hashemite Court last night. The minister conveyed to his majesty a verbal message from his brother His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman dealing with Jordanian-Omani efforts and coordination

to bring the views of the various Yemeni parties closer, especially after the success of Jordanian efforts that culminated in the signing of the Yemeni document of pledge and accord, which safeguards the unity of sisterly Yemen and helps build its modern state.

The talks also dealt with the distinguished relations between the two sisterly countries as well as regional and international issues of common concern.

His Majesty King Husayn asked the guest minister to convey his greetings to his brother His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, the prime minister; His Excellency al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court; Marwan al-Qasim, his majesty's political adviser; Talal Sat'an al-Hasan, minister of state for foreign affairs; and the Omani ambassador in Amman attended the audience.

Bin-'Alawi arrived in Amman yesterday evening and was received upon arrival by Marwan al-Qasim and Talal Sat'an al-Hasan.

French Proposal on Observers Worth 'Careful Consideration'

JN0103093094 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 1 Mar 94 p 4

[Editorial: "Justifiability in Halting Words"]

[Text] Saturday's [26 February] decision by Jordan, Syria and Lebanon to suspend peace talks with Israel in reaction to Friday's massacre of Palestinian worshippers at the Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron, had to be expected. The trauma and anguish caused by the pogrom have made it extremely difficult for the Arab side to continue the negotiations on business-as-usual basis. A halt to the Washington talks was inevitable.

His Majesty King Husayn told members of Parliament Saturday that a decision to withdraw from the negotiations was not up to Jordan alone, but rather a collective Arab position that needed to be carefully taken. Now that a solemn decision has been taken, the PLO too can be expected to stick to its demands for protection of Palestinians under occupation before talks can be resumed in any manner or form.

Judging by the deliberations of the U.N. Security Council on a draft resolution on the Hebron massacre, the likelihood of an agreement among the permanent members for the establishment of an international regime for the protection of Palestinians looks dim. With the council's inability to move effectively in that direction due to opposition from Washington and London in particular, the chances of the PLO accepting without any question U.S. President Bill Clinton's invitation to both sides to take part in a continuous session in Washington till a breakthrough is attained look also bleak.

France's alternative proposal to place international observers in the West Bank and Gaza Strip to monitor the situation there may offer a middle ground that could be acceptable to both sides. Such an initiative could be a nucleus for greater international role in the occupied territories and deserves careful consideration. If accepted, the idea could be a modest beginning of a process that may prove unstoppable.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has yet to address the French proposal and most probably he would reject it. PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat, on the other hand, saw some merits in it and did not rule it out of hand.

The worthiness of the French idea lies in the fact that the other permanent members of the Security Council could find it workable under the circumstances. Besides, the Arab side is not exactly in a mood, politically or emotionally, to resume peace efforts as if nothing had happened. Something meaningful has to be adopted therefore as an effective antidote to the massacre before Arab-Israeli negotiations can be put on track again.

King Expected To Perform Minor Pilgrimage 9 Mar

JN2802141494 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 28 Feb 94

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Excerpt] King Husayn of Jordan is expected to leave for Holy Mecca on 9 March to perform the minor pilgrimage. This will be his first visit to Saudi Arabia in four years.

It is not clear yet if King Husayn will meet with King Fahd of Saudi Arabia or not. [passage omitted]

'Well-Informed' Sources Comment on Bombing Investigation

Arrest Reports Denied

NC0103194294 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 1 Mar 94

[Text] Security sources that are well-informed about the investigations into the explosion in the Sayyidat al-Najat Church in Zuq Mikha'il have denied reports by REUTER that four women have been detained and will be interrogated. The sources told our radio station that this report is totally untrue. REUTER had reported that the Lebanese security forces today arrested four women suspected of having taken part in the explosion in the church. The sources said the women were detained at dawn today and that initial investigations showed that they had planted a bomb next to the altar during the Sunday mass.

'Sources' Comment on Detentions

NC0203073494 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Text] Judge Munif 'Uwaydat, public prosecutor at the court of appeals, has denied a REUTER report that four women were arrested in connection with the explosion at the Sayyidat al-Najat Church in Zuq Mikha'il, that initial investigation showed they planted the bomb near the church altar, and that a fifth woman believed to be the leader of the gang has fled abroad. 'Uwaydat said the investigation is secret and continuing. A judicial investigator will be appointed in implementation of the Council of Minister's decision.

Commenting on the REUTER report, security sources said the authorities in such cases detain many suspects and witnesses. They added that six women gave testimonies as witnesses and were then released.

Another security source has categorically denied REUTER's report, pointing out that the investigation is completely secret and is being conducted by three people supervised by the Lebanese Army's intelligence directorate. The investigation is being shrouded in the necessary secrecy to achieve quick results.

Other sources said that the security authorities have detained six people for questioning as witnesses, including three women.

According to available information, the pertinent security authorities recently detained a non-Lebanese person married to a woman from Kasrawan district. He frequently visited a religious leader and asked him for help to get Lebanese citizenship. Security sources said that this person informed the religious leader that there was a plan to detonate bombs in various places of worship, including Sayyidat al-Najat Church in Zuq Mikha'il. He said he received the information from a Lebanese man. Instructions were then issued to security forces to keep a close watch on

the places named and search them after securing permission from the religious authorities concerned.

Prosecutor Comments on 'Clues'

NC0203213694 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Text] Higher Court Public Prosecutor Justice Munif 'Uwaydat has met Patriarch Sfayr. Following the meeting, 'Uwaydat said that investigation into the bombing at Sayyidat al-Najat Church has yielded some clues. He added: Such crimes are organized and well-planned. They are carried out in a manner that makes them hard to crack. 'Uwaydat disclosed that the investigating magistrate in the case will be named in the coming few days.

Answering a question, 'Uwaydat said that similar crimes, such as the al-Balamand bombing, were solved in the past.

Socialist Party Condemns Bombing

NC0203080294 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 0530 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Text] In response to the Church massacre, the Progressive Socialist Party has asked international organizations to reconsider the acquittal of Zionism and confront Israeli barbarism and racism.

The party's Foreign Relations Office has cabled the United Nations secretary general, the Arab League secretary general, Amnesty International, the EU president, the secretary general of the Islamic countries organization, his holiness the pope, and the president of Socialist International.

The cable said: We cabled you a few days ago condemning the Zionists' horrendous massacre at the al-Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron. Today, we cable you to condemn another massacre perpetrated by the same hand against innocent worshipers in Sayyidat al-Najat Church in Zuq, Lebanon. These and many previous massacres confirm the nature of Zionism and require us all to reconsider some UN resolutions that acquitted Zionism and (overlooked) its past and present. We urge international and regional institutions, all human rights organizations, and all countries and parties to adopt immediate, courageous positions against this barbaric racism, which denies every human right and threatens world peace if its interests are not served.

Iranian Embassy Condemns Bombing

LD0103152894 Tehran IRNA in English 1302 GMT 1 Mar 94

[Text] Beirut, March 1, IRNA—Iran's embassy in a statement issued here Monday strongly condemned the Sunday explosion of a bomb in a Maronite church in Juniyah port in Lebanon.

Explosion of the church was a criminal act with the objective to cover the massacre of Muslim Palestinians in Hebron, the statement read.

The embassy's statement which was quoted in Tuesday's papers here, stressed that "the hand which shed the Muslims blood in Hebron, was the same which exploded the Maronite church." At the end of the statement, the embassy expressed sympathy with the victims families as well as the Christian Lebanese community.

Ten people were killed and 60 injured on Sunday due to the explosion of a bomb at the altar of the Maronite church in Juniyah port.

Christians Concerned About Safety

NC0103131394 Paris AFP in English 1150 GMT 1 Mar 94

[Report by Michel Castex]

[Text] Beirut, March 1 (AFP)—The killing of nine worshippers in a church bombing has heightened fears among Christians for their future in Lebanon, where they feel politically marginalised, analysts and politicians said on Tuesday.

Just hours after the victims were buried several Christian political leaders turned on the government, demanding that it fulfil its responsibilities by identifying and punishing the bombers.

Many agreed the government was wrong to focus its attention on ambitious projects to rebuild Lebanon's war-shattered infrastructure when it should first strengthen security and address social issues.

The head of the Maronite Church, Monsignor Nasrallah Sfayr, set the tone at a funeral service Monday in Our Lady of Deliverance Church, where 55 worshippers were also wounded during Lent Mass on Sunday.

"All the Lebanese have the right to a life of freedom without fear, frustration and inequality," Sfayr said, urging the government to rectify its mistakes.

"Saying that such things happen in other countries is not enough for us. Elsewhere the culprits are found and punished, but here they are not identified because of negligence or incompetence," he added.

Karim Paqruduni, Secretary General of the right-wing Christian Phalange Party, echoed Sfayr, speaking to AFP on Tuesday.

"There is no political will to arrest those responsible for this revolting crime," he said.

Paqruduni escaped a December bomb attack on his party's headquarters during a weekly leadership meeting because he was abroad at the time. Three people were killed and 100 wounded, and the bomber is still at large.

The church bomb "played into the hands of extremists on all sides," Paqruduni said.

"The bomb clearly underlined a political desire to destabilise the situation in Lebanon, terrorise Christians and push them to react, in a bid to create a civil war situation in Lebanon," Paqruduni said.

"The government's political inefficiency allowed this to happen," he added.

For 'Isa Ghurayb, chief editor of the French-language L'ORIENT-LE JOUR, the "horror" which plagued Lebanon during its 1975-1990 civil war had returned to haunt the Lebanese.

Ghurayb, whose newspaper is owned by Culture Minister Michel Iddih, said the church bombing was the latest in a series of unpunished attacks against Christian targets in Lebanon.

"These repeated acts of aggression worry the Christians, mainly the Maronites, because they coincide with an unprecedented political imbalance in Lebanon ... (where) a growing number of Christian feel they have become alienated.

"Nothing is being done to remedy this disastrous feeling. There are just hollow calls to close ranks around the government," he said.

Samir Ja'ja', head of the former Christian Lebanese Forces militia, accused the government of failing the Lebanese people, who "have realised that the security the authorities promised to restore is still a mirage."

The sense of frustration arose after the 1989 al-Ta'if inter-parliamentary accord, which effectively ended the war in Lebanon, with the Christians agreeing to give Muslims a greater share in running the country.

It was exacerbated as the government failed to keep a pledge to introduce sweeping social and economic reforms, which led most Christians to boycott the 1992 legislative elections, protesting that they were imposed by Syria.

No demographic survey has been carried out in Lebanon since 1932, but the Christians maintain they represent 50 percent of the three-million-strong population, even though hundreds of thousands fled the country during the war.

The Muslims say they outnumber the Christians by two to one, but the Maronites are the largest single Christian community.

Former Prime Minister Comments

PM0203100794 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 28 Feb 94 p3

[Text] London—Former Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn has called for a day of prayer and mourning for the souls of the victims of the Zuq Mikha'il explosion. In a statement to AL-HAYAH, he said that he had contacted Patriarch Nasrallah Sfayr suggesting that "a day of prayer and mourning be held for the souls of the martyrs

with the patriarch urging all the Lebanese to attend. Then, after the day of prayer, a national stance would be formulated."

That was Gen. 'Awn's first contact of its kind with the patriarch since he left Lebanon. He had a courtesy contact with him through a third person when he was in Marseilles.

'Awn said that "the explosion was a part of a chain of incidents aimed at undermining Christian-Muslim relations, including the attack on the al-Mansuriyah graves, the leaflets distributed to prevent feast celebrations, the Phalangist headquarters explosion, and, before that, the al-Balamand explosion." He said: "We are not accusing anyone, but we know that Syria is responsible for security in Lebanon, so if it is not in collusion, let it expose the perpetrators."

He added: "We do not want statements in the air condemning the traditional enemy, which is Israel, and those who do not want peace in Lebanon. We want identification of the culprits and their links, otherwise the Syrians should leave Lebanon because all their claims about maintaining security have fallen."

He continued: "Whichever hand perpetrated all these incidents, I call on the Lebanese, especially the Christians, not to level charges against one another and to close their ranks to put an end to this continuing plot against Lebanon. The culprits are the same people who hatched this plot as far back as the early seventies and who agreed to depose me by force on 13 October 1990 in order to complete the plot because I had urged you all to cut off the foreign extensions in Lebanon." He concluded: "I hope the world's condemnation will be at least as strong as its condemnation of the al-Ibrahimi mosque massacre because the only difference between the two incidents is in form not in substance."

Officials Return From Damascus; No Talks Held

NC0203221894 *Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic* 2015 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Text] The Lebanese official delegation returned to Beirut at 1915 today without holding any Lebanese-Syrian summit meeting, as had been hoped, due to the fact that the memorial service for Basil al-Asad lasted longer than expected.

General Strike Observed To Protest Hebron Killings

NC0303105094 *Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic* 0900 GMT 3 Mar 94

[Text] A general strike is being observed in all Lebanese areas today to mark the first week since the Ibrahimi Mosque massacre in Hebron in which 43 Palestinians were killed and hundreds were wounded.

Studies have stopped in schools and universities. Banks, government departments, and shops have closed their

doors. Traffic on the streets is light. The strike covers areas under the Israeli occupation in the south and western al-Biq'a.

Palestinians Demonstrate Against Hebron, 'Arafat

NC2502154394 *Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic* 1530 GMT 25 Feb 94

[Text] Thousands of Palestinians demonstrated in their camps in south Lebanon today following the Friday prayers in denunciation of the Ibrahimi Mosque crime. The demonstrators carried black flags and raised them over the camps. They shouted slogans condemning the crime and criticizing Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat.

Progressive Socialists, Communists Condemn Hebron Event

NC2502135394 *Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic* 1230 GMT 25 Feb 94

[Text] Following the horrible massacre, the Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] Foreign Relations Office sent cables to the UN secretary general, Arab League secretary general, Amnesty International, the EU president, the secretary general of the Islamic Countries League [as heard], the pope, and the head of Socialist International.

The cables said in part: The horrendous massacre that the Zionists committed today against innocent Palestinian worshippers is the greatest evidence of terrorism and delinquent behavior demonstrated by the usurping Israeli entity since it was founded with the help of those who claim to be concerned about civilization, democracy, freedom, and human rights.

If this is the promised Israeli peace, then let it be seen by the entire world's international, regional, and humanitarian institutions. We and history await your stance and your verdict.

The Lebanese Communist Party [LCP] denounced the massacre and said it was an attempt to impose additional conditions on the Palestinian side and put pressure on other Arab parties.

Central Security Council Adopts New Measures

NC2802182294 *Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic* 1630 GMT 28 Feb 94

[Text] The Central Security Council held an extraordinary session at the prime minister's residence at 1600 today. The meeting, held in response to a call by the interior minister, was chaired by Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri. Also present were Interior Minister Bisharah Mirhij, Internal Security Forces Director General Major General Rafiq al-Hasan, State Security Director General Maj. Gen. Nabih Farhat, Public Security Director General Raymond Rifa'il, Interior Ministry Director General Sami Shu'ayb, Army intelligence chief Colonel Michel Rahbani, Cassation Court Public Prosecutor

Munif 'Uwaydat, the Syrian forces' security commander Col. Rustum Ghazali, several judges, army officers, and security officers.

Minister Mirhij spoke after the meeting:

[Begin recording] [Bisharah Mirhij] The Central Security Council held an extraordinary meeting in response to the interior minister's call. The prime minister chaired the meeting. The Council discussed various security issues and adopted appropriate decisions.

[Unidentified correspondent] Have you found out anything? Several judges and director generals were present.

[Mirhij] Of course the Cassation Court prosecutor always attends the Central Security Council meetings. As to the investigations, they are now in the hands of the Lebanese judiciary. We can make no announcements about them until the judiciary allows.

[Correspondent] What are the most important decisions you adopted?

[Second unidentified correspondent] The energy minister said today that we will see the new measures when they are implemented in the field.

[Mirhij] Of course you will see the new measures in the field. They serve the country's good and take into account all the existing facts.

[Correspondent] Do you expect revelations in the near future?

[Mirhij] We are doing our utmost with the means available to us to maintain a stable and calm security situation.

[Correspondents] Thank you. [end recording]

Meanwhile Judge Nasri Lahhud, the government's delegate to the Military Court, and Judge Khalid Hammud, the government's deputy delegate to the Military Court, continued their investigation of the Sayyidat al-Najat Church bombing. Judge Lahhud listened to the statements of several eyewitnesses. According to judicial reports, several individuals have been arrested in the context of the investigations. Their statements are being taken down for the investigation.

Al-Asad, al-Hirawi Attend Basil al-Asad Eulogy
JN0203170794

[Editorial Report] Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic in a linkup with Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic, at 0905 GMT on 2 March begins a live relay from al-Qardahah of a ceremony eulogizing Basil al-Asad 40 days after his death.

At 0906 GMT, President al-Asad arrives at the site of the ceremony where he was welcomed by Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi, Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri, Lebanese Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri, and senior Syrian officials.

President al-Asad, wearing sunglasses, then takes his seat in a pavilion overlooking an open area in which thousands of people are gathered to mark this occasion. Behind him, hundreds of officials and dignitaries are sitting in rows. Basil's tomb, in the middle of the ceremony area, is covered with flowers.

Al-Asad is flanked on his right by Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi and on his left by Lebanese Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri. Ba'th Party Assistant Secretary General 'Abdallah al-Ahmar and Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam sit next to Nabih Birri. Al-Asad's son Dr. Bashshar and Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri sit next to al-Hirawi.

After the recitation of Koranic verses, Sulayman Qaddah, the assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, delivered the Ba'th Party speech at 0912 GMT. Qaddah begins by praising President Hafiz al-Asad's leadership and achievements and the Syrian people's support for the president. He then speaks about Basil, his characteristics, and the Syrians' sorrow on his loss.

Lebanon's Nabih Birri then addressed the ceremony at 0930 GMT. After praising Basil al-Asad, and enumerating his many qualities and offering condolences to President Hafiz al-Asad, Birri speaks about the Beirut church explosion and the Hebron mosque massacre, saying "Israel, using sinful hands, has perpetrated a new crime against a house of God in the heart of Lebanon." Birri adds: "It is no coincidence that only 50 hours separated the two crimes committed against peace in both Lebanon and the region. One of these crimes targeted faithful people and the church in Lebanon and the other targeted faithful people and the holy Ibrahim Mosque in Hebron."

Birri adds: "The blood bath witnessed in the holy lands of Palestine and Lebanon are the best evidence that Israel is incapable of making peace."

He then criticizes world reaction to these two incidents, noting that "Despite this bloody Israeli record, we still feel that Israel is granted immunity by the international community. It is allowed to act as it wishes, depending on the right of veto, which is preventing the passage of

firm international resolutions and the implementation of the provisions enshrined in Chapter 7 of the UN Charter against it. This renders the killing of our peoples, as is happening at present, a condonable crime, and the killing of a single Israeli settler or soldier on our occupied territories an unforgivable crime. Their occupation of our territories is justified, whereas our resistance on our own national soil is deemed terrorism."

At 0940 GMT, Safwan Qudsi, secretary general of the Arab Socialist Union and member of the National Progressive Front [NPF] delivers the NPF speech. His entire speech is devoted to eulogizing Basil and praising President al-Asad.

At 1000 GMT, 'Adil al-Yaziji reads a poem eulogizing Basil al-Asad on behalf of famous Arab poet Muhammad Mahdi al-Jawahiri.

At 1006 GMT, General Mustafa Talas, the deputy commander in chief of the Syrian Armed Forces and Army, deputy prime minister, and defense minister delivers a speech on behalf of the Armed Forces, in which he praises Basil as a courageous soldier, an ingenious engineer, and an intrepid knight. Talas, and after offering condolences to al-Asad says: "We all ask God Almighty to spare you calamities and to keep you a refuge for this nation after the Judas of the 20th Century has sold out this nation's principal cause in the labyrinths of Oslo." He adds that the Israelis then "dared to slaughter this nation's worshipers in the Ibrahim Mosque on a Friday during Ramadan, in the same manner that they dared to attack the Sayyidat al-Najat Church in Beirut on that bloody Sunday in an overt attempt to cover up for their first crime".

At 1023 GMT, Elie Farzali, deputy speaker of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies, reads a poem in praise of Basil al-Asad, after which he praises President al-Asad's pan-Arab policies, and says that the Lebanese people appreciate Syria's support for Lebanon and its stand at the peace negotiations "which does not differentiate between the regaining of southern Lebanon and the regaining of the Syrian Golan, between the interests of Beirut and the interests of Damascus."

At 1035 GMT Ahmad Kaftaru, mufti of the Syrian Arab Republic, delivers speech on behalf of the Muslim men of religion, also eulogizing Basil al-Asad.

At 1048 GMT, Lebanese poet Najib Jamal-al-Din recites a poem.

At 1101 GMT, Greek Orthodox Patriarch Maximos Hakim delivers speech on behalf of Christian men of religion in which he praises Basil al-Asad's modesty, intelligence, and his thirst for knowledge.

At 1113 GMT, Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, vice chairman of the Lebanese Higher Shiite Islamic Council chairman, delivers speech, and at 1133 GMT, poet Hamid Hasan reads a poem.

At 1143 GMT, Lebanese Minister of State Jean 'Ubayd delivers speech, also eulogizing Basil al-Asad and praising President Hafiz al-Asad's support for the Lebanese and Palestinian people, and his deep understanding of the Middle East crisis, and criticizing the Gaza-Jericho agreement,

At 1201 GMT, Mufti of Lebanon Rashid Qabbani takes the podium to deliver speech. As part of his praise of al-Asad and Syria, Qabbani recounts how Syria supports the Palestinian cause, how it has helped the Lebanese settle their differences, and how it assists them in their negotiations with Israel.

At 1213 GMT, Iraqi poet Dr. Mustafa Jamal al-Din recites a poem, and at 1239 GMT the exiled Bishop of Jerusalem Hilarion Capucci delivers speech.

At 1253 GMT, Lebanese Ulema Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah addresses the audience. He discusses the importance of "patience" as one of the manifestations of "freedom." He praises Syria and notes how it has managed to face all world challenges and "Zionist challenges" because Syria knows the nation has many elements of strength and positive points that can help it face all challenges. Syria managed to assert its role. He says that some people are in a rush to normalize relations with Israel and to drop the Israeli boycott, citing new world realities as a reason for this. He says that Syria's wise leadership—al-Asad being a man with a strategic mind—depends on "accurate tactics." He says: "We appreciated your stand, Your Excellency the president, when the U.S. President spoke to you about terrorism, resistance in Lebanon, and the intifadah in Palestine. You spoke to him about the Americans when they stood in the face of the Britons." He highly praises al-Asad and his "support for the resistance in Lebanon and Palestine."

At 1312 GMT, Lebanese poet Talal Haydar read a poem, and at 1320 GMT Scholar 'Abdallah al-'Alayilah delivers a speech in which he praises al-Asad and his stands. At 1351 GMT, Bishop Khalil Abi-Nadir of the Beirut Maronite Parish delivered a speech. At 1405 GMT Palestinian poet Yusuf al-Khatib read a poem. At 1417 GMT Syrian poet Hind Harun read a poem. At 1436 GMT, Shaykh Muhammad Sa'id Ramadan al-Buti delivered a speech eulogizing Basil al-Asad.

At 1446 GMT, Bashshar al-Asad delivers a speech on behalf of the family in which he thanks the Syrians and the Arabs for their honest feelings and the national unity they embodied. He also thanks all those who attended the memorial service.

At 1452 GMT, Damascus Mufti Shaykh Bashir 'Id al-Bari concludes the eulogy by an appeal to God, and then the linkup ends at 1500 GMT.

At 1530 GMT, Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Television Network in Arabic links up again with Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic to carry live from al-Na'isah Mosque in al-Qardahah the evening

prayers. President Hafiz al-Asad, senior Syrian officials, and Syrian and Lebanese clergymen attend the prayers with President al-Asad. The prayers end at 1550 GMT and the linkup ended immediately afterward.

Hizballah Leader's Address Reported

JN0203191394 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1253 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Speech by Lebanese Hizballah Spiritual Leader Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah at a ceremony eulogizing Basil al-Asad 40 days after his death, held in al-Qardahah, Syria, in the presence of Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad—live]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] We have noticed, and we do not want to accuse anyone, that there are a number of groups in this nation who are in a hurry to achieve peace, in a hurry to achieve normalization before peace, in a hurry to lift the economic boycott, and in a hurry about everything. This is because they have the new world order in mind, and because they want to tell you something about the new world situation. They speak about all this because they are frightened. So, they want to achieve security quickly from here and there.

However, we see that the wise leadership in Syria, represented by President Hafiz al-Asad, has a strategic mind. I know him as a man who has in his awareness the history of his nation and more. He studies this history and takes from it all the bright points in order to illuminate all this new darkness. This is out of his concern for the nation's strategy, that his tactics may create a stand that people may term moderate or as making small concessions here and there, for enlightened and accurate tactics can never cancel strategy.

We appreciated your stand, Your Excellency the president, when the U.S. President spoke to you about terrorism, resistance in Lebanon, and the intifadah in Palestine. You spoke to him about the Americans when they stood in the face of the Britons. What stand did they have? Neither this aura with which the U.S. President is trying to surround himself, nor this new world order prevented you from doing all this. This is because you believe that we are a strong nation, and that we all must, in our media, politics, and economy, work to concentrate the elements of strength in this nation in order to produce new elements.

We need a cultural battle that instills in the nation the deep values that enable it to expand. We also need a political battle that prevents the nation from collapsing before intimidation from here and there, but gives it confidence in itself rather than borrowing it from here and there. The issue, which we are experiencing now, and which we feel that the wise leadership is now making clear, is that the international news media, and maybe some of our own political media, claim that peace will cause the collapse of the Arab nation because Israel possesses creative economic capabilities, creative genius, the strength, and the international cover. It calls on the

Arabs to prepare for collapse and arrange their matters with the Israeli train after you arrange your matters with the U.S. train. This is as if the nation has lost its energy, and as if the nation has no political, economic, or media creativity. The nation has a lot of all this creativity. A nation that has created civilization throughout history can build civilization at times of war and peace. The question is to be patient, to study matters carefully, to study the situation carefully, and to study the future carefully so that we will be free with Imam Ja'far al-Sadiq, may God peace be upon him, who says: A free man is free in all his affairs. He is patient over all catastrophes, and if all catastrophes befall him will not be able to break or coerce him.

Mr. President, you have proven that you are a free man in a world that wants to enslave itself before others enslave it. Catastrophes might befall you, whether they are personal or public, in order to try to defeat your steadfastness, to suppress you, and to prevent you from pursuing this long march. We believe that in your experience with the nation, you were the man who could not be defeated by catastrophes or challenges. Based on this, we believe that you still have the awareness of the free men. We feel that you constitute the force that has stood strong, despite all the negative political and security aspects, with the resistance in Lebanon, and has also stood strongly with the intifadah in Palestine, because you know that resistance in Lebanon and the intifadah are the bright points amid this darkness. Therefore, we are with you concerning the overall issue of freedom. We are with you concerning the issue of challenge. We also agree with you that the nation must continue to be lofty, zealous, and firm. We are also with you in all stands that necessitate open awareness and a strong will to see in you the man who does not care about what others say, but cares about what the nation says, a man who does not care about others' challenges, but cares about the challenges of building the nation on strong bases. In light of this, we believe that, in your great sadness, you were the great patient man. He who has the nation's zeal in his mind and heart has the zeal of patience in his emotions and stands. We beseech Almighty God to preserve you for this nation, and to have mercy on the soul of the deceased. May God make paradise be his final abode, and grant you and the nation patience and great requital. May God's peace and blessing be upon you.

Envoy: Israel Responsible for 'Regional Extremism'

JN0303144794 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 3 Mar 94

[Text] New York—Syria has stressed that the horrendous Hebron massacre falls within the framework of the Israeli occupation and settlement policy, which is in violation of all laws and UN resolutions.

Addressing the Security Council last night, Syrian UN Representative Husayn 'Awwad said Israel's intransigent attitude and expansionist policies, which have persisted since the start of the Middle East peace talks in Madrid

in 1991, are either directly or indirectly responsible for regional extremism. He added that Israel has been playing a dual game since the start of the Middle East peace process and that the Hebron massacre is part of an organized and planned operation, not an individual act as asserted by Israel. The government of Israel bears responsibility for this massacre, he added.

'Awwad said that unless the United States and Russia, the cosponsors of the peace process, intervene for the sake of reaching a just, lasting, and comprehensive solution in the Middle East, Israel will then implement Yitzhaq Shamir's slogans, which he summed up in the following phrase: Negotiate with the Arabs for years, but do not allow these talks to produce any results.

Papers Criticize Rabin's Remarks on Peace

JN2402092994 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 24 Feb 94

[Press review]

[Text] In its editorial headlined "The Peace Process Is at a Crucial Turning Point," the newspaper AL-BA'TH says: Yitzhaq Rabin's statements these days are of no use to the peace process. Rabin tells settlers that there will be no Palestinian state, that the settlements illegally established in the occupied territories will not be dismantled, that there will be no withdrawal from occupied Jerusalem, that Israel will not abandon its racism, and that Israel will not recognize the Palestinian people's national rights.

AL-BA'TH adds: At the same time, Rabin is being generous to the world public opinion by giving it some analgesics by saying that 1994 will be the year of achieving peace in the Middle East.

AL-BA'TH says: Rabin came with his party majority to the Knesset under the banner of peace to replace Shamir, who obstructed, hampered, and froze the peace process, and brought tension to U.S.-Israeli relations with his crude rejection of U.S. proposals. It is known that the most important promises Rabin gave to Israeli voters—who are sick of the policy of wars, military invasions, occupation of others' land, rebellion against international legitimacy, and rejection of several initiatives to establish peace in the region—was his commitment to deviate from Shamir's method and to cooperate with the United States to reactivate the peace process and to enable it to achieve its objectives.

The paper says: Had it not been for the Geneva meeting between President Hafez al-Assad and Bill Clinton and its positive results which paved the way for embarking on new attempts to resume the peace talks, these talks would have remained frozen, not to say halted.

The paper clarifies: Every time Syria removes an Israeli mine from the road of peace, Rabin's government plants new mines. Every time Syria makes a step to push the

peace process forward, Israel takes several steps backward. These steps have forced it to leave the peace process and its talks in Washington for the corridors of secret talks in Oslo.

The paper holds Rabin and his government fully responsible for obstructing and foiling the peace talks in Washington and for planting mines on their road.

Concluding, AL-BATH says: Unless the Israeli obstacles are seriously and decisively surmounted, the peace process will continue to be exposed to further erosion, destruction, and collapse, and the talk about peace, stability, and security in the region will be sheer imagination and deception.

The newspaper AL-THAWRAH says: Israeli officials often resort to making provocative and skeptical statements to play down the importance of the peace process and to give pessimistic impressions about the possibility of reaching a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East. They try to draw a very dark and melancholic picture for the future of the peace process in order to achieve their objective of making others believe that peace can only be achieved in accordance with the Israeli concept, namely, that the Arabs should relinquish their land and rights and accept partial solutions and separate deals tailored in accordance with Israel's expansionist objectives. The paper quotes a recent statement by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in Madrid in which he described the peace talks as being a bazaar and a commercial deal.

AL-THAWRAH says: If this is Yitzhaq Rabin's concept of the talks, no one can be optimistic about the approach of peace. Neither can anyone claim the peace talks are proceeding in the right direction.

The paper clarifies: Peace, in its humanitarian sense, cannot be compared with a commercial deal that is subject to compromise and blackmail and which can take place at the expense of one party. Such a description shows a backward mentality that is not in harmony with the contemporary international trend that considers peace a pressing need necessitated by security, stability, and justice in the world.

Concluding, the paper says: If Rabin attacks Syria due to its insistence on the need for a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East, due to its rejection of partial solutions and separate deals, and due to its commitment to restoring the occupied Arab territories in full, he should realize that Syria's policy will continue to be clear and firm, and that no one can divert it from its objectives and principles.

Talks Said Stuck in 'Vicious Circle,' Could Collapse

PM2402100594 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 23 Feb 94 p 5

[Report by Salwa al-Ustuwani: "Syria: Negotiations Going Round in Vicious Circle; Israel Continues To Exercise Evasion Method"]

[Excerpt] Damascus—Syria said yesterday that Israel continues to use evasion as a method and is trying to perpetuate the explosive situation in the occupied Arab territories and to create a state of tension and instability in the region.

A Syrian official told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the Washington negotiations are still going round in a vicious circle and that the Israeli delegation continues to evade adherence to the peace process, first and foremost the full withdrawal from the Golan Heights and the other occupied territories. The official added that the Washington negotiations have considerably and clearly exposed Israel's hostile position toward the peace process. "The Israelis continue to raise the same issues and provoke the same obstacle with a view to prolonging the negotiations and using the wasted time to circumvent the results of the Geneva summit, get around the Security Council resolutions, and empty them of any substance."

The official went on to say that Rabin continues to insist on the tone of secret negotiations at a high level with the aim of torpedoing the negotiations and the U.S. initiative, eclipsing the resolutions of international legitimacy, and practicing blackmail against Syria, Lebanon, and the Arabs. Plus, Israel is going to impose other impossible conditions for the sake of playing for time and using the coming years in the service of its settlement schemes.

The official called on the United States to adopt a firm position so that the time will not be wasted, because Syria cannot continue to engage in futile negotiations forever or allow Israel to lie to world public opinion and say that it is continuing the peace process merely to achieve its expansionist schemes.

The official added that the peace process could collapse if Israel continues to ignore Arab demands. And Israel must know that there can be no peace in the region without Syria and that no agreement concluded with Israel has any hope of continuing or being implemented without Syria. Syria has a known and fixed position, namely not to relinquish a single inch of its territory or the other Arab territories. [passage omitted]

Suspension of Washington Talks, Massacre Viewed

JN0203075694 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 2 Mar 94

[From the press review]

[Text] The newspaper AL-THAWRAH says: Given the enormity and monstrosity of the Hebron mosque massacre, it was only natural for the Arab delegations to suspend the Washington bilateral talks to protest the massacre and demonstrate solidarity with the Palestinian Arab people.

The paper adds: It is illogical for the negotiating process to remain at Israel's mercy, and hostage to its bloody crimes. Likewise, it should be unreasonable for the Arabs to continue to conduct the negotiations on the basis of commitment to the peace process when the Israelis are free of any obligations or commitments.

AL-THAWRAH goes on to say: In its open war, Israel has been engaged in programmed terrorism, in a war of extermination and destruction in the name of peace. The Arabs are always asked not to protest to avoid inflaming emotions, and so that the peace process may not be undermined. To put it bluntly, the Arabs alone are asked to show flexibility, exercise restraint, and receive blows to maintain the momentum in the peace process as if the Arabs alone are the party concerned with this process. The Arabs are perceived as the party that must reward

Israel and make concessions that consecrate the usurpation of Arab territories and rights, as well as submission to Israeli dictates and domination.

The paper says: Had Israel been in the Arabs' shoes; namely, had it been the victim receiving blows and the target of daily air raids and shelling, in which the most sophisticated weapons are used, and had the massacre struck a Jewish synagogue instead of the holy Ibrahimi Mosque or the Sayyidat al-Najat Church, certainly the reaction of the West, and the United States in particular, would not have been so timid or confined to condemnation and denunciation. Had this been the case, the Arabs would have become the target of a sweeping campaign.

Concluding its commentary, AL-THAWRAH says: Undoubtedly, the shocking and horrendous Hebron massacre has turned many concepts upside down and changed many things. Thanks to this massacre, it has become difficult to continue the bilateral talks, or resume them as if nothing has happened. Salvaging the peace process and the stalled peace talks requires the application of all sorts of pressures on Israel to make it honor the relevant international legitimacy resolutions and conventions, respect human rights, dismantle settlements, disarm settlers, and return to the Arabs all their territories and rights.

India

Home Minister Assails U.S. on Human Rights, Kashmir Issue

BK0203161494 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Text] The home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, today denounced attempts to raise human rights issue in Kashmir by Pakistan and the United States. He declared in the Lok Sabha today that no country in the world has a better record in this regard than India. He said Pakistan teaching us about human rights is ridiculous. Mr. Chavan was replying to the day-long discussion on a statutory resolution seeking to extend president's rule in Jammu and Kashmir for a further period of six months from tomorrow, which the House adopted by a voice vote later. The Rajya Sabha has already approved it.

In his 40-minute speech, Mr. Chavan questioned the intention of the U.S. Administration in raising the issue and asked what locus standi Washington has in recognizing or not recognizing the instrument of Kashmir's accession to India. He said neither they appear to help Pakistan, nor India, but themselves. [sentence as heard]

Referring to his meetings with British leaders, Mr. Chavan said he was sure that Britain, too, is not happy with the U.S. stand on Kashmir.

Appealing to all parties to consider the issue above party considerations, Mr. Chavan said any internal bickering will only weaken India in the international forums. He also strongly defended the role of the armed forces in the state and said all have to understand the difficult conditions in which they are functioning there. He said there is a qualitative change in the whole scenario, as the terrorists do not have the support of the local population anymore.

Earlier, initiating the discussion, Major B.C. Khanduri, BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party], urged the government to have a clear-cut policy on Jammu and Kashmir. Participating in the discussion, members from all sides of the house supported the resolution, but stressed the need for taking political initiatives to win the confidence of the Kashmiri people.

Iran

Khamene'i, Rafsanjani 'Power Struggle' Noted

JN0103161194

[All Iranian names as published]

[Editorial Report] London AL-WASAT in Arabic in its 21-27 February issue publishes on pages 17-19 an approximately 2,500-word report by Hasan 'Awwad on the current "power struggle" in Iran.

The report says that Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani "received a painful blow a few days ago"

when Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution, dismissed the president's brother Mohammad Rafsanjani, chief of the Iranian Radio and Television establishment. The report adds that this decision, which took the president and his brother by surprise, was welcomed by hardliners inside and outside the establishment. The report says: "The Iranian institution considered Khamene'i's decision and its timing—one day after the revolution anniversary celebrations which ended on Friday [11 February]—a painful blow to Mohammad Rafsanjani and the president, who tried to benefit from the assassination attempt which took place at the beginning of the celebrations at the Khomeyni tomb. The president wanted to strengthen his popularity and influence, which began to decrease around the time of the presidential elections last summer."

The report then reviews the assignment of Mohammad Rafsanjani as the chief of the Iranian radio and television establishment, his dealing with establishment officials, the "deviation" that prevailed in the establishment, and the conflict he waged with Murtada Awini, former official in charge of the Islamic Art and Culture Center.

The report says that Khamene'i wanted to dismiss Mohammad Rafsanjani before this date, however, he sought to maintain internal balances. However, the report adds, Khamene'i instructed a parliamentary committee to prepare a report on the radio and television, its negative points, and deviations. This prompted Mohammad Rafsanjani to commit deadly mistakes, which resulted in his dismissal. The report cites "sources" as saying that Khamene'i wants to prevent the establishment of any dictatorship in the country and to institutionalize Iran. The sources added that when the parliamentary committee issued its report on the radio and television, Mohammad Rafsanjani reacted emotionally and leveled "severe accusations" against the members of the committee. The supporters of the committee staged demonstrations in Asfahan and called for the officials in charge of the radio and television to be punished. What exacerbated the situation, according to the report, is that Mohammad Rafsanjani banned live coverage of the parliament's discussions and the speeches of its members. Consequently, the parliament supported Khamene'i and called on him to send more inspection committees to institutions under the president's control, with the exception of the Armed Forces, which are under the supervision of Khamene'i himself.

The report says that the first thing 'Ali Larijani, new director of the radio and television establishment, must do is to sack the official in charge of foreign radios because he was criticized, more than any other official, by the parliamentary committee.

The recent change in the administration of the radio and television establishment prompted President Hashemi-Rafsanjani to appoint Mostafa Mir Salim as minister of culture and Islamic guidance. In addition, other changes

were made and will be made at the instructions of Khamene'i to cope with the era of economic and social reform.

Velayati Views Future of Oil, Foreign Policy

*LD0103204594 Tehran IRNA in English 1841 GMT
1 Mar 94*

[Text] Tehran, March 1, IRNA—Oil has been a major political element in the internal and external policies of all Third World countries since the Second World War, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said here today. Speaking at a one-day seminar on future of oil and foreign policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, he said that the oil supply and demand at the international markets have undergone strategic and relatively wide-scale changes.

He said oil producing countries which were highly dependant on the crude oil revenues in the last decade, suffered heavily due to the oil prices fluctuations. OPEC production output rose from 14 million BPD in 1985 to the current 23 million BPD without tangible rise in the revenues of the member states, Velayati said.

However, he added, the European Union countries had a total revenue of dlr. 200 billion from 11.8 million barrels of oil they consumed in the last year alone. "This is three times as much as the amount earned through the export of the similar volume of oil by the oil exporting countries, i.e. dlr. 74 billion."

Citing another example Velayati said Italian tax revenues from the two million barrels of oil the country consumed last year, were equal to the total revenues of Saudi Arabia of selling daily 8 million barrels of crude oil.

He elsewhere noted that the prospect of the world energy consumption concerning oil and other substitute energies does not show a significant change at least in the next two decades, and that oil will remain the only existing source of energy.

On the gas exports Velayati said Iran is aware of the importance of establishing a gas pipeline to Europe, adding that the Islamic Republic is willing to mount efforts in this regard in a manner that joint interests of Iran, Russia and European consumers are ensured.

Interior Minister Views Situation on Borders

*LD0203120094 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT
2 Mar 94*

[Text] The interior minister has announced: The Islamic Republic of Iran and Turkey have no border disputes and complete security prevails on the two countries' common borders.

Mr. Besharati announced this news in an interview with our correspondent. He added: The good relations

between Iran and Turkey have resulted in the two countries witnessing complete security on their common borders. He stressed that no country can bring about security on its borders by itself. He added: We currently have no problems on our eastern borders either.

Referring to the exceptional situation in northern, central and southern Iraq, Besharati stressed: The situation in various parts of Iraq has brought about special conditions on Iranian borders. Thanks to the alertness of border-dwellers, particularly the self-sacrificing people of Kordestan, the security situation in that area, among our country's border regions, is becoming more favorable.

Referring to the presence of 2.5 to 3 million Afghan refugees, and also other refugees, in Iran, the interior minister said: So long as the countries of origin of the refugees are not calm their presence in Iran is feasible.

Iraqi Offer To Normalize Relations Rejected

*JN0203195694 London AL-WASAT in Arabic 28 Feb-6
Mar 94 p 4*

[Report by Hamid Haydar from Tehran]

[Text] The talks held by Iraqi Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Sa'd 'Abd-al-Majid al-Faysal in Tehran have not yielded the results Iraq sought to achieve; namely, breaking its regional and international isolation.

Knowledgeable sources in Tehran have asserted to AL-WASAT that the Iraqi official was surprised by Iran's hard-line approach toward attempts at normalization between Tehran and Baghdad, unlike the previous rounds of talks held late last year in Karachi, New York, and Baghdad.

The sources said Iran rejected a proposal by al-Faysal to resume trade trips along the joint border "because Iran does not want to violate the international trade embargo" against Iraq.

The sources added that "trade borders, which had been open on humanitarian grounds and within the framework of the international resolutions regarding the economic embargo, were shut off completely by a direct decision issued by Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, the spiritual guide of the revolution." Khamene'i stressed that the border shall remain closed to trade until further notice in the wake of the killing of several Iranian border guards during trade operations last year.

The sources said Khamene'i made this decision after receiving information and warnings that the U.S. Administration is about to take "tangible" measures against Iran on charges of violating the international economic embargo against Iraq.

The sources further said that the Iraqi official suggested "sacrificing" the leaders of the opposition organization of Mojahedin-e Khalq if Iran agrees to resume trade operations. Iranian officials, who were interested several

months ago in bringing the leaders of Mojahedin-e Khalq under control, rejected the tempting Iraqi offer because they believe the U.S. Administration is looking for "excuses to harass Iran".

Deputy Minister Views Status of Iraqi Relations

LD0103202294 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1600 GMT 1 Mar 94*

[Report on remarks by Dr. Mohammad Javad Zarif, Iranian deputy foreign minister in charge of international affairs; place and date not given; from the "World of Politics" program—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Unidentified announcer] [passage omitted] A group of our listeners have asked us to provide some information about the present nature of our country's relations with Iraq, the exchange of Iraqi and Iranian delegations, and finally the POW issue.

We invite all these dear listeners to pay attention to remarks made over the telephone by Dr. Mohammad Javad Zarif, deputy foreign minister in charge of international affairs.

[Mohammed Javad Zarif] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The Islamic Republic—on the basis of its general policy of seeking relations based on peaceful coexistence with all its neighbors—has been trying to normalize its ties with Iraq. A number of meetings were held in Karachi and New York between the foreign affairs ministers of Iran and Iraq during the course of last year. During these meetings, the two sides decided that delegations should be exchanged between the two countries at the ministerial level, so that bilateral ties may improve and develop by resolving the problems that exist on the path of relations between the two countries.

In order to prepare the ground for the first visit by a minister—that is to say, the visit by His Excellency Dr. Velayati—to Baghdad, and in order to lay down the agenda of work for the ministers, it has been decided that an Islamic Republic delegation should visit Baghdad and an Iraqi delegation should reciprocate the visit. It is hoped that the visits may pave the way for the resolution of the two countries' outstanding problems, as far as possible. [passage omitted]

The basis of our approach to Iraq is our emphasis on that country's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and on peaceful coexistence on the basis of the 1975 accord and UN Security Council Resolution 598. In order to attain these goals, the remaining problems that surround relations between the two countries should be essentially resolved. In particular, the POW issue, with its humanitarian dimensions, should be dealt with as a first step toward reaching an all-embracing solution.

The Islamic Republic has always been ready to cooperate fully to resolve this humanitarian issue. However, right

from the outset and during the course of the imposed war—as well as after the cease-fire and even after the release of the first batch of POWs—the Iraqi Government has unfortunately been pursuing a secretive policy in this area. In order to improve bilateral ties, this policy needs to be reviewed. This was an issue that the Iraqi delegation was reminded of in a serious tone during my visit to Iraq and also during the course of the recent visit to Tehran by the Iraqi delegation.

They were reminded that they needed to review their policy and clarify the situation surrounding the Iranian POWs still remaining in Iraq. This implies that the remaining POWs who intend to return to Iran should be repatriated. In this case, an important obstacle that stands in the way of relations between the two countries may be removed. We hope the Iraqi Government will make the appropriate decision in dealing with this issue.

Discussions were also held on other issues, such as frontier problems and the other outstanding issues. It was decided that delegations of experts and specialists should be exchanged between the two countries during the period of time between the return of the Iraqi delegation to their country and the visit by Dr. Velayati to Iraq in the second half of Ordibehesht 1373 [5-21 May 1994]. These delegations will study the details of the outstanding issues, so that, God willing, a sufficiently high degree of understanding will have been reached to enable the ministers to implement decisions. [passage omitted]

Jordanian Diplomat Comments on Relations

NC2802131694 *Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 15 Feb 94 p 7*

[Report on an interview with Jordanian Ambassador to Iran Yasin Istanbuli by an unidentified KEYHAN correspondent in Tehran; date not given]

[Excerpts] [KEYHAN] In view of the numerous vicissitudes in Iran-Jordan relations, what is your opinion of the trend in bilateral relations?

[Istanbuli] When we discuss relations between Iran and Jordan, we imply long, historic, and continuing bilateral relations.

Two years ago, it was decided that relations should be improved. There are various issues and circumstances necessitating better and broader relations. The issue of normalizing, establishing, and continuing relations with Iran is an important one, which is being seriously pursued in Jordan in word and deed. Recently, King Husayn told a news conference that Iran has no role in fomenting tension in Arab countries and this indicates Jordan's stance on the importance of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Prince Hasan also stresses the role and importance of Iran in the Middle East.

In letters to Iranian officials, King Husayn has stressed Jordan's wish for better and improved relations with

Iran. The visits by various political, economic, and cultural delegations to the Islamic Republic of Iran indicate Jordan's desire to broaden ties with Iran. [passage omitted]

[KEYHAN] To what do you attribute the problems that cropped up in Iranian-Jordanian relations?

[Istanbul] The current relations between Iran and Jordan are based on the two countries and peoples being Muslim, having a fundamental role in the Islamic world, and being part of the great Islamic ummah. You should not ignore the role of the mass media. The West has adopted two policies with regard to the Islamic world: One concerns principled leanings [osul-gera'i—euphemism for fundamentalism] and the dangers and the second is the issue of human rights regarding which the Western countries have concentrated their propaganda on particular Islamic countries. In this manner, they claim that these countries do not adhere to democratic principles and violate human rights. They cover up human rights violations in other countries. The victims in both cases are Muslims.

The mass media in Islamic countries should defend the Islamic culture and civilization more than ever so that they can combat the Western media's propaganda. You should strive to eliminate obstacles and replace them with common denominators and muster every resource against such onslaughts. This should be a common strategy for all Muslim countries.

On the effective role played by the mass media in raising the level of bilateral relations, he said: Much material is published in Jordanian newspapers regarding the Islamic Republic of Iran. A few weeks ago, the Iranian ambassador in Jordan was interviewed in the press. Similarly, articles and reports on elections and other important issues in Iran are published in Jordanian newspapers, all of which are geared toward broadening bilateral relations.

The Jordanian ambassador then referred to the publication of articles in Iranian newspapers that tend to project Jordan's stance as servile to the United States, opposed to the Islamic Republic of Iran, and anti-Islamic and added: This is not true. Jordan wants to have cordial relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Referring to the past record of historic, cultural, and Islamic relations between Iran and Jordan, the ambassador called for greater contacts between the two countries and the two nations and said that despite the problems, bilateral relations are on a favorable level. He added: We are living in a region in which we should bring our stances and ideas closer together and eschew discord.

[KEYHAN] The Islamic al-Tahrir party was formed many years ago in Jordan but why has it never participated in the political process with other factions and adopted the path of opposition?

[Istanbul] This is linked with the thinking and leanings of the party. You can ask them this question. The newspaper AL-LULWA recently published the party's manifesto, its stance, and its strategies, to which you can refer. There is no law in Jordan that bans any party on the basis of its thinking. Every party is free to state its beliefs and the law on parties clarifies that the Islamic al-Tahrir party can carry out its activities on the basis of the Constitution. [passage omitted]

[KEYHAN] What is your opinion of the Gaza-Jericho Accord as a peace agreement?

[Istanbul] Naturally, if the objective of the Palestinian leadership is to create a Palestinian government by means of this accord, we cannot say that the Palestinians are wrong. If it does not culminate in the establishment of a Palestinian government, we can say that they should not do such things.

[KEYHAN] What is your opinion of Jordan's West Bank? Will you set up a confederation to administer these Palestinian territories?

[Istanbul] The West Bank is part of Jordan and this has been clarified in the Constitution. If the Palestinian leadership talks of a confederation, we believe that we are one nation, that Jordan is one big nation. We don't even mention the Syrians or Lebanese, with whom we have very deep relations, which surpass all talk of a confederation.

[KEYHAN] How do you view the future of the Middle East, especially after the Gaza-Jericho Accord?

[Istanbul] The interests of the Arab and Islamic countries are the main basis, the principles that should be incorporated in such accords. And there should be provision for the conditions of unity of Islamic countries. Jordan stresses the need for an Islamic common market that should include every Arab and Islamic country.

Jordanian Prime Minister Amir Hasan also stressed the role of the Islamic Republic of Iran in an Islamic common market. These are the countries that should resist the enemies' economic and cultural onslaughts. We are the first country to stress these Islamic-Arab slogans. [passage omitted]

[KEYHAN] How do you view Jordan's relations with the Persian Gulf countries with regard to the oil war, now that some years have passed since then?

[Istanbul] Jordan has always attached much importance to its relations with the Persian Gulf countries and it does not benefit Jordan on principle to adopt a stance against these countries. Jordan's policy was to amicably settle the issue of the occupation of Kuwait by Iraq. In this regard, Jordan concurs with the Islamic Republic of Iran and believes that foreign forces should not be present in the region. We do not want to be opposed to an Arab country and we have cordial relations with the Persian Gulf countries.

[KEYHAN] In view of the current international conditions and the changes in the international structure, how do you view the future world order and Jordan's place therein?

[Istanbul] You know that Jordan is a small country in terms of its area but has the longest border with Israel. Therefore, it has the greatest responsibility of all the Arab and Islamic countries. The issue is that Jordan has always tried to have a strong army in terms of its resources and capability. It is Jordan's strategy to be a country strong in its unity and solidarity with its friends.

Jordan does not favor differences between Arab and Islamic countries, as differences in the Arab and Islamic world will be detrimental and harmful. You can see this in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Iraq, and Libya and the Islamic and Arab world are cooperating on this. We see that two Arab and Islamic countries are under an economic embargo. As an Arab and a Muslim, I believe there are children, women, and aged people who are affected by it and we have a duty to them as Muslims. As for Bosnia-Herzegovina, it is the same. In Somalia and Afghanistan, the real victims are Muslims again and this indicates foreign intervention and losses to Muslims.

The potential resources of Islamic countries are a strong cultural force against Western civilization, indicating a strong and basic international culture. Jordan's strategy right from the outset has been that this culture and civilization should remain strong and firmly in place and that that requires the cooperation of Arab and Islamic countries.

'Prominent' Opposition Figure Reportedly Arrested

PM0203105394 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic
1 Mar 94 p 4

[Report by Safa Ha'eri: "Iranian Opposition Party Accuses Authorities of Arresting One of Its Prominent Members"]

[Text] Paris—The opposition Iranian National Party has announced that the day before yesterday security forces arrested one of its prominent members, namely Dr. Siyavosh Sayhat, in Esfahan in central Iran. The party said that his family does not know where he is being held.

A statement issued by the party said that Sayhat, an Esfahan University professor, is a well-known doctor who "saved the lives of thousands of Iranian soldiers under enemy fire" during the Iraq-Iran war (1980-1988). The party urged "all Iranians inside and outside the country to raise their voice against repressive actions...and to demand the immediate release of this courageous son of Iran."

It is known that the National Party, led by Daryush Furuhar (64), is one of the oldest secular political parties in Iran. It opposed the former regime and is now

opposed to the current Islamic regime. In a recent statement Furuhar urged clerics to "quietly hand over power" to national forces.

A prominent female member of the party named Homa Darabi (51), who was a physician and professor at Tehran University, committed suicide on 21 February in protest at the conditions of Iranian women. Hundreds of people took part in her funeral ceremonies at a well-known mosque in Tehran.

IRNA Chief Urges Exposing Israeli Crimes

LD2802225894 Tehran IRNA in English 2240 GMT
28 Feb 94

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 28, IRNA—Managing Director of the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) and Chairman of the Non-aligned News Agencies Pool (NANAP), Fereyduun Verdinezhad on Monday sent messages to chiefs of NANAP member news agencies, on last Friday's massacre of Palestinian worshippers in al-Khalil mosque, and urged them to reveal the nature of the latest Israeli crime to the world.

He regretted that although crimes of racist nature such as those in Bosnia-Herzegovina and the latest one in occupied Palestine, have increased of late, "the horrifying aspects of the crimes are treated lightly by world news agencies."

Verdinejad expressed hope that nanap members, bearing in mind the principle of free-thinking of the non-aligned movement and their own professional responsibilities would do their best to convey the message of the long-suffering people to the world and expose the criminals.

The message emphasized that the murder and the massacre of civilians by the military, in the name of human rights and freedom, should be stopped as soon as possible.

More than 60 fasting Muslims were gunned down in cold blood at the Prophet Ibrahim mosque in al-Khalil by Zionist agents last Friday.

UN Envoy Urges Liberation of 'Palestine'

LD0303094394 Tehran IRNA in English 0839 GMT
3 Mar 94

[Text] United Nations, New York, March 3, IRNA—Iranian Ambassador to the United Nations Gholam 'Ali Khoshru here Wednesday called on the Security Council to urge for liberation of occupied Palestine, as the only and genuine way to bring about justice, and for the dismantling of all Zionist settlements and return of all Palestinian refugees to their homeland.

Addressing the session, Khoshru said that the last Friday massacre of Palestinian worshippers in al-Khalil by the Zionists would not be the last if the approach of the international community towards the question of Palestine continues to be the same.

He further noted that the circumstances surrounding the tragic incident clearly proved the fact that the attack was premeditated and led by the elements from Zionist army.

"That the Israeli soldiers guarding the mosque not only did nothing to stop the massacre but as the Zionists confessed later, opened fire on the worshipers who were fleeing the scene, clearly indicates that the full responsibility over the massacre lies with the Zionist regime," he added.

The ambassador also remarked that it was astonishing, while Zionists coming from a land thousands miles away were allowed to carry automatic guns, attack indigenous civilians in their mosque, but Palestinians were not allowed to live in their homeland and were subjected to continuous Zionist brutality.

Khoshru voiced solidarity of both the Iranian people and government with the Palestinians and support for their struggles and expressed their deepest condolences to the bereaved families and Palestinian people on the occasion of the horrible massacre.

Commentary Views 'Arafat's 'Conciliatory Approach'

LD0203141694 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1101 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] Five days after the bloody tragedy of Ibrahim mosque in Hebron, during which more than 600 innocent Palestinians were either killed or wounded, the PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat at last decided to call off talks with the Zionist regime for the time being. Shortly after this bloody tragedy, U.S. President Clinton invited 'Arafat to Washington to hold talks with the Zionist regime led by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin on ways of solving implementation problems of the Gaza-Jericho accord. 'Arafat hastily accepted this invitation. However, the united and angry response of the Palestine people in the face of the Zionist regime's horrific crime and its repercussions in the entire Arab and Islamic world pushed 'Arafat into a corner and he excused himself. [passage omitted]

It is quite natural that under the existing explosive situation in Palestinian society no one dares hold talks with the Zionist regime under the name of the Palestinian people. 'Arafat's decision to call off the talks at this stage is in fact a message to those responsible for the massacre of the innocent people that they should not worry as the talks will resume as soon as the circumstances change and the Palestinians calm down. Whereas the Palestinians in the occupied territories and the people of neighboring countries including Egypt, Jordan, and Lebanon have staged rallies and protest marches to demand the ultimate cancellation of the talks. No doubt the adoption of a conciliatory approach on the talks with

the Zionist regime—at a time when there are clear signs that the Zionist regime was directly involved in the massacre of the worshippers in the Ibrahim mosque—is a step to win the support of the Zionist regime and the White House statesmen. Such an approach definitely seeks to serve the interests of the Zionist regime and the White House. The Palestinians demand something different and have announced this demand explicitly.

Article Views 'Disgusting' Saudi Offer on Hebron

NC0203102994 Paris AFP in English 0945 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Text] Tehran, March 2 (AFP)—An Iranian radical daily on Wednesday blasted the "disgusting" offer by Saudi King Fahd to pay 53,000 dollars to the families of every Palestinian killed during and after the Hebron massacre.

"What is the motive of the Saudis in taking the lead and offering compensation on behalf of Israel?" JOMHURIE ESLAMI, close to the Islamic hardliners, asked.

"Has Riyadh volunteered in such a disgusting act under pressure from Israel and the United States, or because it feels responsibility for the tragedy?"

The paper warned that the offer could "risk tempting the Zionists to repeat such crime" and portray an image of Saudi Arabia as a defender of Israel.

A Saudi spokesman said Monday that the king had decided to make the gesture "to ease the suffering of relatives of those martyred in the vile massacre ... [ellipsis as received] and those shot dead afterwards by the Israeli army."

The money would be paid to relatives of those who died in the mosque massacre and demonstrators who were shot and killed later the same day.

The king also offered to fly the seriously wounded Palestinians to Saudi hospitals.

Iran has strongly condemned the slaughter and several demonstrations have been held in protest at the incident in Iranian cities.

The Israeli army says 30 Palestinians died in the mosque, and Palestinian doctors said the toll was 52.

Tehran Urges Armenian Withdrawal From Azerbaijan

LD0203182894 Tehran IRNA in English 1801 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Text] Tehran, March 2, IRNA—Deputy Foreign Minister for Euro-American Affairs Mahmud Va'ez said here Wednesday that the only way to resolve the Karabakh crisis is for representatives of Azerbaijan and Armenia to sit at the negotiating table.

He said Iran as the great neighbour of the two republics is concerned about problems of the region and feels its responsibility to help settle the crisis.

Tehran puts emphasis against escalation of the almost six-year-old conflict and calls for peaceful steps to put an end to the fighting, he said.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran denounces occupation of Azerbaijani territory," said Va'ez, adding "we believe the Armenians should withdraw from all occupied areas and obstacles should be removed through political talks." He said Iran held consultations with Russian officials to hold a quadruple meeting involving Tehran, Moscow, Baku and Yerevan, to help end the crisis.

Asked about his talks with his Armenian counterpart, Lypartian who visited Tehran earlier this week, Va'ez said that issues related to the region and Karabakh and ways to end the crisis as well as issues of mutual interests were the topics of the talks.

"We informed the Armenian side about the problems possible escalation of the fighting could pose for Iranian interests," he added. He said that he believes the Armenian side has seriously taken into account Tehran's position.

Joint Iranian-Pakistani Naval Maneuvers End 2 Mar
NC0303061194 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT
3 Mar 94

[Text] The joint naval maneuvers of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan in the northern water of the Indian Ocean ended last night.

The Central News Unit reports from Islamabad that in the last phase of these maneuvers, defense operations against air threats and attacks on amphibian and submarine units were carried out. The participating units displayed the most modern tactics in these exercises.

The four-phase maneuvers included four warships, several naval reconnaissance planes, and antisubmarine helicopters of the Iranian Navy as well as five warships, one submarine, and several planes and helicopters from the Pakistani Air Force.

The plans for the joint maneuvers were drawn up by the Iranian Navy and the Pakistani Navy undertook the executive management.

Daily Views Future Prospects for DPRK
NC2602114794 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL
in English 14 Feb 94 p 2

[Editorial: "The Tightening of the Screw on Pyongyang"]

[Text] With the collapse of the former Soviet empire, and the ongoing economic/political liberalization or

modernization of China, the continued existence of North Korea seems to be a question mark more than ever before.

The two countries—the former Soviet Union and China—used to be of great importance to North Korea if not for providing it with economic assistance, then for the moral support they afforded it. These two countries gave North Korea the feeling that it was part of a greater cause, or a greater game, namely the now extinct game of communism.

What brings the long-term or continued existence of the North Korean regime specially under question is the fact that it is surrounded on all sides by a number of countries with dynamic economies by world standards; countries which are continuing to experience growth despite the debilitating and lingering world economic recession. Even Vietnam with its former moribund economy is registering great economic improvements and attracting foreign investments.

Therefore, if the realities in East Asia are any indication, the North Korean regime won't exist for long in its present political isolationist form. But the change or changes in the North Korean regime will not come, no matter how much the pressure from without or within, as long as its present leadership is alive. President Kim Il-song is a well established political institution in that country. He is, and will always be, the liberator of the "fatherland" from Japanese and American colonialisms.

This latter qualification, the fact of being a political institution and a liberator also applies to President Fidel Castro of Cuba. The two are leaders with unshaking unwavering popular support behind them which no amount of foreign propaganda can weaken. The past heroic struggles of these two leaders for the "liberation" of their countries are reasons enough for their continued rule, just as long as they live.

As far as North Korea's other half, i.e. South Korea, is concerned, there have been tension and sporadic friction between the two, but everything considered they have managed to bear one another and coexist for some half a century.

But now, all of a sudden, it has been about a year maybe, that the question of North Korea's nuclear arms possession has become a hot, menacing and destabilizing issue. Despite being a topic of frontpage controversy and accusations, Washington has not given any concrete proof on what it claims and the whole thing seems to have been based on conjecture.

The whole crisis surrounding the possession of nuclear arms by North Korea looks like a continued and artificial one. And there can be a number of reasons why the Americans are raising tension in the Korean Peninsula, and for that matter in East Asia, and in the meantime worrying everyone. Japan seems to have taken the whole deal seriously and is deeply concerned.

Washington is subjecting the North Korean regime to so much pressure, it is good Pyongyang has not gone berserk. And if it goes berserk it should not surprise anyone. The idea of regarding the application of sanctions by the Americans and their allies as a "declaration of war" might be an indication of that.

Washington is putting pressure in North Korea to open up its nuclear sites to inspection to make sure Pyongyang is no threat at all and that it is one hundred percent helpless. But to the North Korean regime, the idea of possessing nuclear arms is tantamount to prestige and a means of having its existence recognized.

Therefore, no matter how much the threat of force and application of economic sanctions, North Korea will not open up its nuclear sites to inspection. For what is North Korea in the absence of even the perceived possession of nuclear arms?

* Discussion Continues on IRI's GATT Membership

94LA0092C London KEYHAN in Persian
24 Feb 94 p 4

[Text] While it has been more than two months since the successful conclusion of the eighth round of international trade talks known as the "Uruguay Round" in the framework of the GATT organization, the question of whether the Islamic Republic of Iran should or should not join this organization is still one of the hottest topics of debate in Tehran's economic circles.

The public relations office of the Ministry of Commerce reports that based on a joint proposal from the Ministry of Commerce and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, a committee will soon be formed to study the Islamic Republic of Iran's membership in GATT. This committee's duties include a careful study of the pros and cons of GATT membership and its likely consequences, appropriate recommendations, proposals and policies to reduce the negative consequences of membership or nonmembership, identifying the political and legal obstacles and problems with membership or nonmembership in GATT and coordinating the utilization of GATT's technical and specialist resources.

Some of Tehran's newspapers have recently vigorously opposed Iran's membership in GATT, and have seen it as a factor in the destruction of the nation's production units. In a series of harshly critical articles under the title "Consequences of the GATT Agreement for Developing Nations," the newspaper RESALAT questioned this organization's goals and wrote: "It appears that ultimately GATT has targeted the economic independence of the developing nations. If these nations submit to the GATT agreement, it will damage their economic independence, which is the foundation of their political independence and sovereignty, and the developing nations will become second-class members of the global village."

On the other hand the Institute for Trade Studies and Research recently published a book called *Understanding the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and a Study of the Consequences of the Islamic Republic of Iran Becoming a Member*. Esfandiar Omidbakhsh and Mas'ud Taromsari, the book's authors, write concerning the long-term consequences of membership: "Iran's economy is in a state of transition and we are in the phase of testing the effects of structural adjustments on the nation's overall economy and trade. We are still a long way from reaching an established and fully formed economic system. Yet membership in GATT is basically a long-term cycle and every nation desiring membership in this organization must make decisions in this regard in terms of its long-term economic and trade objectives. Therefore, the proper procedure for studying the issue of GATT membership for a nation such as ours, which does not have firm programs and policies—and, of course, this is a characteristic of a period of transition—must certainly be based on a long-term view."

The authors of the aforementioned book add: "An important point is the question of what state our economy will be in after this period of transition is over. What characteristics will our economic structure have? In essence, Iran's foreign trade structure in the years following the triumph of the Islamic revolution, despite controls and deregulation, has more or less followed the same pattern that was followed in the country during the previous three decades. We have not yet succeeded in making proper use of foreign trade as a tool for industrial and economic development...therefore with this kind of foreign trade structure, in the long term GATT membership will not benefit the country that much."

Pakistan

Bhutto: Afghan Aid To Continue Despite Events

BK0303123194 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 3 Mar 94

[Text] The prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, has said that Pakistan will continue to assist the Afghan brothers despite some unpleasant events. Talking to representatives of nongovernmental organizations and international aid agencies at [name indistinct] Afghan refugee camp near Peshawar this afternoon, she said Pakistan wants the establishment of peace in Afghanistan at the earliest possible time. This was necessary for speedy reconstruction of Afghanistan. She said the representatives of relief agencies to continue assisting the Afghan people [sentence as heard]. The prime minister pointed out that Pakistan, Iran, Saudi Arabia, the members of the Islamic Conference Organization and other countries have appealed to Afghan leaders to stop armed confrontation and establish peace in the country. She said Pakistan has not closed its border with Afghanistan and all Afghans having valid documents are allowed to travel into Pakistan.

Foreign Minister Regrets Defense Budget Hike in India

BK0203145794 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Text] The foreign minister, Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali, has said that the settlement of Kashmir is in the vital interests of Pakistan and not Khalistan. Talking to newsmen informally in Parliament House today, he regretted that the opposition leader is attaching greater importance to Khalistan issue rather than Kashmir. Pakistan wants a dialogue with India on all issues provided India creates prosperous [as heard] conditions. He said we would send another two nonpapers to India within next few days.

To a question, the foreign minister said that if India learns to live like good neighbors and changes its hegemonic attitude, there would be peace in the region.

To another question on the increase in Indian defense budget, the foreign minister said it was extremely unfortunate as it will escalate the arms race in the region and create more poverty.

Responding a question on Pakistan's resolution on human rights violations in Jammu and Kashmir in UN Human Rights Commission, Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali said it would be a test for the level of world morality and it will expose the double-standards of the world community.

To yet another question, the foreign minister said Pakistan has not closed the border with Afghanistan, rather it has reestablished it as the international border.

Spokesman Urges India To Settle Kashmir Dispute

BK0203010094 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Text] A Foreign Office spokesman has said in Islamabad today that Jammu and Kashmir is a disputed

territory and a final settlement of this dispute through a fair and impartial plebiscite under the UN auspices is pending. Referring to Indian claims on Kashmir, the spokesman said that such unilateral claims by India is tantamount to depriving Kashmiris of their inalienable right to self-determination. The spokesman called upon the Indian Government to settle this very important issue by ending the oppressive activities being carried out by its security forces in occupied Kashmir.

Bhutto Party Wins 16 Seats in Senate Elections

BK0203161394 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Excerpt] At end of the polling for the 37 seats of the Senate today, unofficial results of all the seats have been received. The Pakistan People's Party has won 16 seats, the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz Group, six; and the Awami National Party, three. The Pakistan Muslim League-Junejo Group, the Jamhoori Watan Party, and the Muhajir Qaumi Movement-Altaf Group have secured two seats each, while the Jamaat-i-Islami, the Balochistan National Movement-Hayee Group, the Balochistan National Movement-Mengal Group, the Jamiat-i-Ulema-i-Islam, and the Pakhtoonkhwa Milli Awami Party have one seat each. One Senate seat [words indistinct] has been won by Shafqat Mahmud. [passage omitted]

President Establishes Antinarcotics Task Force

BK0303014294 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Text] The president has promulgated an Antinarcotics Task Force Ordinance 1994, which comes into force at once. Under the ordinance, the task force will investigate all offenses relating to preparation, production, manufacture, transportation, trafficking, or smuggling of intoxicants, narcotics, and chemicals used in the manufacture of narcotics. The task force will be able to arrest persons involved in narcotics trafficking and seize their property.